THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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Summary of News.

Monday, 20th July.

MR. DE COBAIN, member for Belfast East, who has been summoned to attend the House of Commons on the 23rd instant, is now in Boulogne. He has applied for permission to defer making his appearance in the House on the ground that he is in ill-health.

LORD WENLOCK leaves Utacamund on the 7th proximo for Poona, where he will stay till after the cricket match, Bombay *versus* Madras. On the 12th and 13th, after leaving Poona he will visit Bellary, Chingleput, North Arcot, and Cuddapah districts, the tour embracing all the tracts where distress is serious. The Governor will not return to the hills.

IT appears that certain villages in the Motihari Sub-Division of the district of Champarun have incurred the serious displeasure of Government. They are said to have given refuge to an absconding proclaimed offender, and are showing a determination to prevent his arrest. A short while ago, the Police actually arrested the man, when the villagers turned out *en masse*, assaulted them and snatched away the prisoner. The villagers of Bhadhar, Mehdipore, Mandilwa are pronounced to be in a disturbed and dangerous state. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has accordingly sanctioned the entertainment for six months of a special police force of one head-constable and four constables to be quartered in those villages for the purpose of keeping the peace. The total cost of the force for six months, including their pensionary charges, clothing allowances, contingencies and the cost of constructing a barrack, will amount to Rs. 398. It has been ordered that the whole of this amount should be assessed and levied from the inhabitants in proportion to their respective means. But what does all this mean? Who is the proclaimed offender? Why do the villagers combine to shield him at the risk of incurring the highest displeasure of the ruler of the land? And why is the police so much over-zealous to arrest him? There must be something rotten at the core of it. What we specially desire is that a sifting enquiry be made as to the nature of the thing.

SUICIDE is on the increase among the Parsees, and in many instances for the most trivial causes. A Bombay journal, reviewing a paper on "the Statistics of Suicide for the year 1890," remarks that during the year there were ten cases of suicide among males, and three among females. The percentage is higher than it ought to be, if we contrast it with that for the total population of the city. Among some 830,000 of all castes and creeds there were only 75 suicides—that is, less than one for every ten thousand inhabitants. Whereas the percentage for the Parsees alone, whose number is a little above 90,000, is nearly one and-a-half per ten thousand. It does not seem from a study of the Coroner's returns that the influence at work is poverty; for, as a matter of fact, few Parsees kill themselves because of financial trouble. The great majority of those who "did" for themselves seem indeed to have thought that any excuse was good enough for the purpose; and the cynicism displayed by the women is particularly noticeable. These are facts that need attention. Servants in Europe and America have been lately telling us that suicide is an index to civilisation—in other words, the more you multiply your physical wants, the more eager are you to leave the world before your allotted time. Are the Parsees getting too "civilised?"

THE general observation that offences against the law vary in inverse ratio with the prosperity of the population, is severely discouraged by a fact mentioned in Mr. Macdonell's Resolution on the administration of Criminal Justice in the Central Provinces in 1890. We are told that the number of cases of hurt and simple assault has increased, and this is attributed to "the easier circumstances of the people which tempted them to resort more freely to the Courts for the settlement of petty quarrels, which, in times of distress, they would have been content to overlook or to settle at home."

THE French Chamber of Deputies has passed the proposed vote of confidence in the Government.

Tuesday, 21st July.

A BOMBAY paper writing on the subject of the over-crowding of the medical profession says:—"We have much sympathy for the large number of medical practitioners who are starving for want of practice, and on whom the over-crowded state of the profession is telling wofully. But we do not think highly of the remedies which have been suggested for the evil. One medical gentleman, writing to the dailies, says that medical education should be made more costly than it is at present; but he forgets that in that case the medical profession will only gain, if it gains at all, at the expense of some other professions, and the question will still remain unsettled as to what is to be done with our young men. Besides, it is only in Bombay that the medical profession is over-stocked; but in the mofussil it is hardly so. It is true that in the mofussil there is not a large demand for trained doctors; perhaps that is because the people have not yet completely got over the prejudice against European medicines, as they call them, and even where they have got over it, they have not yet become enlightened enough to realise the fact that when a doctor is consulted, he must be paid for his service. This state of things is not likely to last long. In the meantime, cannot the senior members of the medical profession, who have been for many years in practice increase their fees and thus give a chance to the juniors?"

IT is alleged that letters in course of transit from Persia to Great Britain, and *vice versa*, are frequently tampered with *en route* while passing through Russian territory, being sometimes cut open, sometimes detained and sometimes destroyed. Mr. Curzon intended to call Sir J. Fergusson's attention to the matter, and would ask whether, in view of the fact that such practice is not in accordance with the amenities ordinarily observed by civilised nations, the Government will consider the propriety of making representations on the subject at St. Petersburg.

IT had been hoped that during the coming cold weather an attempt might have been made to mobilise a large number of troops in India, with a view to testing the machinery which has been elaborated since 1885; but the expenditure involved in the protracted operations in the Black Mountain, coupled with the second Miranzai and the Manipur expeditions, has been too great to permit of any exceptional outlay in the direction indicated. It was estimated that at least four lakhs of rupees would have been required to carry out the experiment in mobilisation, whereas the usual grant for Camps of Exercise in all India is only one-fourth of that sum. The allotment gives Rs. 65,000 to the Bengal Army, and this will permit of a fairly large concentration at Mainpuri and of the usual manœuvres in the various district commands. During the last six months some 20,000 troops have been engaged in real warfare, and although the expeditions have only been against frontier tribes, both officers and men must have acquired some practical knowledge of the work required of them in the field,

RUMOURS are current that the Russians have equipped an "exploration party" of 400 or 500 men to visit the Pamir, doubtless with a view to the extension of their influence in that direction. This is probably only the first sign of renewed activity on the part of Russia in Central Asia.

THE stamp revenue in the North-West Provinces and Oudh for the past year shows a decrease of about two lakhs on the year preceding. The result is mainly due to a falling-off in court-fees, which, if it is to be taken as implying less litigation, is scarcely to be deplored.

IN connection with the new provincial contracts the Government of India in the Financial Department is still engaged in drawing up what may be called a new schedule. The Local Governments will, of course, be called upon to express their opinions upon this before any resolution defining their engagements is issued.

CHOLERA has broken out at Mecca, and the city is declared to be "infected."

IT is stated that General Boulanger, having grown weary of the monotonous life he has been expending at Jersey, is on the point of taking a villa in the environs of Brussels, where he means permanently to reside.

Wednesday, 22nd July.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh with his personal staff left Naini Tal on Sunday for his plains tour. One of the principal objects of his tour is to see for himself how the different water-supply schemes that have been started are getting on, and to launch those at Cawnpore and Lucknow. At the same time Sir Auckland Colvin is no doubt anxious to take stock personally of the condition of the different parts of the province, at a time when agricultural prospects are looking so ominous.

THE Central Provinces Jail Report and Criminal Judicial Report for 1890 have just appeared, with no explanation of the delay in their publication. Both exhibit fairly satisfactory results. The health of the prisoners has been very fair, deaths having fallen from 51 per mille to 26. As the Central Provinces for many years together used to show a jail mortality averaging 61 per mille, the improvement here is evident. The Superintendents are still not satisfied; some deplore the ill-health of their charges; they attribute it to hard times. In one district, the jail officer writes: "The distress in the district during 1889 was continued in 1890, and was due to bad crops and to epidemics," so that there were many "half starved wretches who would risk anything to obtain food."

THE papers brought by the last English mail contain an announcement of the discovery of a new means of destroying locusts. It takes the form of a liquid which is said to be very cheap, and needs only to be applied to kill the living insect or sterilise its eggs. The physical impossibility of effectively combating the flying hordes that invade the fields has been repeatedly learned by successive generations of ryots. It may therefore be doubted that this new discovery, were it as cheap and as plentiful as water, would be of any great service against the clouds of developed insects. The only practicable method of destruction, on a scale commensurate with the enormous numbers of the pest, is to destroy the egg. To this end the new discovery would seem well adapted. Not only is it said to completely sterilise the egg, but it is entirely innocuous to animals, and further it is an excellent manuer.

THE *Pioneer* writes:—"It is as easy or as disagreeable to make your will in Assam as in any other part of the world: but it would seem to be a much more difficult matter to make certain that the document will survive you. According to the Inspector-General of Registration in the Province the three wills in deposit with the Registrar of Sylhet were reported during last year to be in a bad condition, and the depositors have been "asked to put them into fresh damp-resisting covers." Similarly the two covers containing wills in deposit with the Registrar of Sibsagar have suffered from mildew; and in one sub-registry some records were partially destroyed by white-ants. Tea planters have doubtless their own way of looking at things: but outside Assam we should fancy men who have anything to leave would take care that their last wills and testaments were not left at the mercy of white-ants and mildew. In the interest of the next of kin the equipment of a registry office might be improved with advantage.'

IT is more than probable, says *Iron*, that the Egyptians were in the habit of transporting vessels overland across the Isthmus of Suez, and tradition records that twenty-three centuries ago a true ship railway, with polished granite blocks as rails, existed and was worked across the Isthmus of Corinth, where the construction of a canal has been projected. In 1718 the well-known Count Emanuel Swedenburg constructed a road and "machines" for carrying laden vessels from the Stromstadt to Iddefjord, in Sweden, a distance of fourteen miles across a rough country.

IT is a high compliment to the Bombay mill-owners that the Chinese allege that the Bombay yarn, woven into cloth, has more durable qualities than that, produced by Manchester. Commenting on this fact, the *St. James's Gazette* of London makes the following characteristic observation:—"So it may, perhaps, be said that the Manchester mill-owners have only themselves to thank for the diminished demand for their goods in that part of the world."

Thursday, 23rd July.

THE Hon'ble Mr. Wadia recently submitted a scheme to the Bombay Government for a Tramway and rope incline Railway to the top of Matheran hill, and asked leave to lay the Tramway along a portion of the existing road, and a grant of all the unoccupied lands at the top of the hill at a nominal rental and the right to lease the land, as a consideration for constructing the Tramway. The Government now refuses to grant this concession, but expresses its willingness, if the line be carried out by private enterprise, to give a free grant of the Government land required for the line. The present road, however, must not be interfered with.

ONE of the greatest wonders in plant life is the cow-tree of South America which grows in large forests on the arid, rocky plains of South America, being most abundant near the town of Cariaco, and along the sea-coast of Venezuela. It has a trunk six or eight feet in diameter, growing more than one hundred feet high, and without branches for the first sixty or seventy feet of its height. The leaves, about a foot long and three or four inches broad, are of leathery texture, strongly veined, and of a deep, shining green colour. This tree yields a supply of rich, wholesome milk, which is said to be as nutritious as cow's mi k; yet, strange to say, the cow-tree belongs to the same natural order as that which includes the deadly upas-tree. We are indebted to Baron Humboldt for the first account of this curious tree, the bland and nutritious juice of which has been found, on analysis, to contain 36 per cent. of galactine, the analagous principle to lactine, or the sugar of animal milk. The juice is obtained from the stem of the tree by making incisions, and is collected by the natives in gourds. It is used with *cassava* and Indian corn bread, and for several months of the year is the principal food of the natives: they go as regularly to these trees in the morning for their supply of food, as our farmers do to their cows.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH, who held back from the "National Congress" movement during Mr. Bradlaugh's life-time, seems anxious to put in a claim for the still unoccupied vacancy caused by the death of the late "Member for India." Mr. Smith has given notice that he intends "to call attention to the grievances of the people of India, and to the pledge given by the Secretary of State for India in 1886 to advise the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into those grievances, and to move that such Commission should be now appointed, and that it should be empowered to sit in India during the cold season and to take evidence there."

THE long continued drought has made Simla very unhealthy this season. Nearly half the station is down with influenza. If the rain holds off much longer something akin to a water famine may be expected. The ryots in the surrounding country are in despair, and energetic tomtoming goes on night and day in the hope of propitiating the Clerk of the weather.

THE London correspondent of the *Hindu*, of Madras, writes:—"With reference to Lord Wenlock's Devil Dance on which I said something last week, a friend writes, in a letter received to-day:—"What do you think of Lord Wenlock's last escapade? I am going to ask, why 'last' escapade? I did not know there had been any previous lapse. Dance has caused considerable disgust in missionary circles all over India, and I should think among the Indian people generally, too. It is quite true something was done to purify Madras Government House, and I hope, the next Governor will be a Scotch Presbyterian Peer." Mr. Samuel Smith has given notice of a question in the House of Commons on the subject.'

THE Council of the Society of Arts, London, have awarded no fewer than three silver medals to authors of papers, read in the Indian Section during the past session. The gentlemen selected for this honour are Mr. B. H. Baden-Powell, C. I. E., ("Indian Village, Communities, with special reference to Modern investigations") Mr Thomas Wardle ("The Use of Tussur Silk in European Manufactures,) and Mr. T. L. Tupper, Chief Secretary to the Punjab Government, (The Study of Indian History). It is said that the arrangements, connected with the British Section of the Chicago Exhibition, are to be carried out by the staff of the Society of Arts, which has had considerable experience in matters of this sort. The British Government will place a sum of £25,000 at the disposal of the Council of the Society, who may be formed into a Royal Commission for the purposes of the forthcoming Exhibition.

MADRAS is going ahead. The latest thing is an electric tramway, for the construction of which four firms have tendered.

THE scheme of defence for the port of Madras is to be carried out next January, the funds having been obtained unexpectedly.

Friday, 24th July.

IT is practically settled that Dr. Cleghorn will succeed Dr. Farrell as Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals in the Punjab.

THE Government of India have decided not to send a representative of the Army Medical Services from this country to the Hygienic Congress in London.

DEPARTMENTAL Sub-Inspectors of Schools in Bengal who are serving in a District for five years, have been ordered to make the selection of the Districts they wish to be transferred to. Nothing has been laid down about the Deputy Inspectors.

AMONG the Bombay officials, who have a chance to be appointed to the Governor's Executive Council, the name of Mr. Satyendra Nath Tagore occurs. The *Pioneer* recommends him for only two reasons, *viz.*, that he is the most senior of the District Judges in Bombay, and that he belongs to a high family of Bengal.

THE clergy of England have been singularly outspoken in the expression of their views with regard to the part played by the Prince of Wales in the Baccarat scandal, some of them going so far as to say that the Prince had no character to lose, and that he had been a persistent sabbath-breaker during his career!

IN commenting on the Manipur debate, the correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* says:—"The debate, if not brilliant, was substantially useful, because it helped to reveal some of the characteristic weak points of Indian administration—its dilatoriness, its disposition to interfere and punish, where it would have done better to let things alone, its habit of leaving the India Office at home in ignorance of its doings."

AN interesting find of ancient silver coins is reported from the village of Tarehti in the Jaunpur District. The coins discovered, some 430 in number, are said to be of three descriptions and of the time of Raja Deb Chanda, who ruled in the district about eleven hundred years ago.

THE inhabitants of the United Kingdom send more telegraphic messages in the course of the year than the inhabitants of any other European country. During the year 1888 every British man, woman, and child appears to have despatched one telegraphic message and a half to somebody else; in 1889 a fraction over that amount. The Swiss come next, with one and one-tenth of telegraphic message per head. Ten Russians, five Spaniards and Hungarians, three Swedes and Italians have, it seems, to combine before contributing a single annual message. In France, Holland, and Denmark the proportion is not quite one message per inhabitant per annum. Germany stands rather low on the list: no better up to 1890 than Portugal. Probably racing and press telegrams account for the large number of "messages carried" in the United Kingdom.

THE Municipality at Barhampore proposes to open a park for the use of the public.

THERE are six Englishmen in Cabul, in the service of the Amir, all busily engaged in the manufacture of arms and ammunition.

THE Bombay Government are again pressing the claims of Kurrachi for a Railway on the standard gauge to connect that port with Delhi.

THE Board of Trustees of the Barhampore College have decided to start, in conjunction with the local Municipality, a Technical School, like the one at Rungpore. The Municipality will make a grant from next year.

THE Industrial Conference at Puna will open on the 24th proximo, under the presidency of Captain Beauclerk of Hydarabad. The Secretary will be prepared to issue tickets to subscribers at the following rates:—Reserved seats, Rs. 2; others, Re. 1.

THE *Indian Spectator*, of Bombay, says:—"The Governor of Madras has earned the thanks of the Indian public by appointing Mr. Justice Muthuswami Iyer to be Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court Bench, and his legal acumen has been more than once acknowledged in terms of praise by competent judges of his work, as a Judge."

A NOTEWORTHY traveller appears to have arrived at Peshawar in the shape of a gentleman who is described as the Rev. John Nowrie, a Greek by birth and a Roman Catholic by religion, a resident of Baghdad, who has travelled through Turkey, Persia and Afghanistan, and has now reached India. He is a great linguist, speaking many oriental languages besides English, but is especially proficient in Persian. In this language he gave an address upon Baghdad at the Mission Literary Institute in Peshawar to a large native audience, who were immensely pleased with his eloquence and prepossessing manners.

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Saturday, 25th July.

A MEETING of the Seventh National Congress Reception Committee was held at Nagpur on Sunday last when Rao Saheb Deo Rao Vinayak presided. The first question before the meeting was about the election of a chairman for the Reception Committee. It will be remembered that when the Reception Committee was formed in April last several names were suggested for the post, but the choice lay between Messrs. C. Narayanswamy, Gopal Rao Hari Bhide, Bapurao Dada, all of Nagpur, and Messrs. R. N. Modholkar and G. S. Khaparde from Berar. Rao Saheb Deo Rao, Chairman of the meeting, proposed Mr. C. Narayan Swamy Nayudu who with becoming modesty expressed some hesitation but accepted it in the end. Some discussion followed about the appointment of a gentleman to the Secretary-ship of the C. P. Standing Congress Committee, vacated by Mr. Narayan Swamy and the names of Mr. C. V. Nayudu, Barrister-at-Law, M. K. G. Deshpande M. A. B. L., Mr. R. K. Gokhale, Pleader, and Professor Bhagirath Prasad were in turn, suggested; but the place has not yet been accepted by any. Several other important matters such as the distribution of work amongst the Secretaries, dimensions of the Pandal, tenders for cots and chairs were also discussed and left to the discretion of the Executive Committee. The question of the Central Provinces contribution towards the liquidation of Mr. Bradlaugh's debts was also discussed. Of the promised sum of Rs. 1,500, Berar promised to pay 500 and it was resolved to realize the remaining sum by inviting individual contributions in Central Provinces About Rs. 350 were promised on the spot.

PRINCE BISMARCK's newspaper organs warn Germany against contracting a too intimate friendship with England. Any closer approach towards England may irritate Russia: "We have no inclination to think that our traditional friendship with England is less valuable than our relations with Russia; but we believe that it will be for Germany's good in future, should strained relations between England and Russia arise, if Germany, before taking sides, waits till the other Powers interested in the Eastern question do so."

Truth handles the Indian Government very severely over the Black Mountain expeditions, which, it declares, are got up whenever our Anglo-Indian warriors feel a little bored or the flow of decorations and honours is getting slack. 'Two brigades were despatched to the Black Mountain last October, and did nothing but march to the top of a mountain, look about them, possibly take a few photographs, and march home again. After this winter a second expedition marched out, 7,000 strong, which was increasad to 12,000, but after lying intrenched for some time at "Fort Funk," looking at the enemy it turned tail, and returned home. The leading heroes concerned therein are now awaiting their K. C. B.'s. *Truth* does not think so badly of British warriors as to suppose the object of their "funk" was the 1,500 hillmen in front. What was "funked" was public opinion in England, and the probable exposure of the Black Mountain humbug, if any thing occurred which would direct an inconvenient amount of attention to the place.'

FEW people have any notion of the large establishment maintained at the India Office in Downing Street, for, as the cost is defrayed wholly out of the Indian Revenues, the matter does not come before the House of Commons in any way. There are in all 601 persons on the establishment, including sixty-three office-keepers and messengers, and thirty-two house-maids and charwomen! The total amount of salaries and allowances paid to the 601 persons is £148,310 per annum, or an average of about £243 10 s. a head. In the Correspondence Department alone there are six secretaries at £1,200 a year each, besides seven "assistants" at £1,000, and eleven senior clerks at £800, together with six resident clerks at £700 per annum. The twenty-eight house-maids get 740 a year each, and in addition to the scores of highly-paid officials, it must not be forgotten that there are thirteen members of the Indian Council who receive £1,200 per annum each, or a total of £15,600.

THOUGH the two-eyed spectacle which is such a common sight in Germany, even amongst children, cannot claim a greater antiquity than 600 years, the use of glasses for the sight can be traced back to a period 2,000 years ago. The Emperor Nero, who was short-sighted, was one of the ancients who made use of a glass. He is said to have used a concave one to better watch the gladiators, and no doubt this enabled him to enjoy a much clearer view of the burning of the divine city than he would otherwise have enjoyed, though we are not aware of any historical statement vouching for the fact that he used a glass on that memorable occasion.—*The Hospital.*

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THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

(SESSION 1891-92.)

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on *Monday*, the *27th Inst.*, at 5 P. M.
Subject: Ammonia.

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Tuesday*, the *28th Inst.*, at 7½ P. M.
Subject: Magnetic Induction. and the Law of Magnetic Action.

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on *Wednesday*, the *29th Inst.*, at 5 P. M.
Subject: Nitric Acid.

LECTURE by the Rev. Father Lafont, S.J., C. I. E., on *Thursday*, the *30th Inst.*, at 7½ P. M.
Subject: "The Balance and the Pen lulum."

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S. on *Saturday*, the *1st August.*, at 4 P. M.
Subject: Oxides of Nitrogen continued.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
July 25th, 1891. *Honorary Secretary.*

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JULY 27, 1891.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S TOUR.

FROM Krishnagar the Lieutenant-Governor arrived at Katwa on Saturday, and there too, Sir Charles Elliott was besieged with the never-ending and never-solving railway question and shortness of Municipal Funds. His Honor's reply was of course to the same effect as given in Kalna and Krishnagar. As regards a local railway, he said he could only repeat his remarks to the Commissioners of Kalna when making a similar request, that it was useless to look to Government for a railway to supply such very local requirements when great schemes of public importance were still to be carried out. If, however, local capitalists came forward to supply the necessary funds, the Bengal Government would assist in the surveys and plans and the acquisition of land. With the Municipal complaint regarding want of funds, His Honor said he could entirely sympathize, as Government felt the same want daily. The only remedy was to husband their funds, and carry out only such works as were absolutely necessary. His Honor reached Baharampur on Sunday before last.

On Tuesday His Honor distributed prizes to successful students of the Baharampur College. In vindication of the policy that has made over the management of the College to non-Governmental agencies, His Honor made the following remarks:—

He explained how the great success of the College was especially gratifying to him personally, as he had been one of the first and chief advisers of the plan by which Colleges such as this had been transferred from Government support to support by contributions of the enlightened members of local society. The scheme had been strongly opposed at the time, but the present success of this College was a proof of the correctness of his views. Too great thanks or too much gratitude could not be expressed to Her Highness the Maharani Surnomoye, whose name for generosity and wise administration of her affairs was a household word far beyond the precincts of the vast province of Bengal. Her Highness had now for years carried on this good work, and His Honor trusted that when the time came for a decision as to whether the present arrangement for maintaining the College should be continued or otherwise, the Maharani would decide that results had been sufficiently gratifying to justify her in incurring the expenses of its maintenance or in devoting a certain sum to the endowment. His Honor then made a few remarks on the pleasure it had given him to find that in addition to the numerous and costly prizes for intellectual achievements there was also such a liberal number given for athletics. Hitherto the boys of Bengal had been too much brought up to exercise their brains only, but it was just as desirable that the body too should be trained, and the development of athletics was a point in which he took particular interest.

His Honor paid visits to Maharani Sarnamoye and Rani Annakali Devi in the afternoon.

In Murshidabad which was reached on Wednesday, His Honor received three addresses, one from the Municipality, another from the District Board, and the third from the local Association. He made a collective reply and regarding the local railway question, said:—

When Public Works Minister the project of a railway from Ranaghat to Bhagawangola had come up through his predecessor Sir Steuart Bayley, but that, owing to expense and other cause, it had afterwards been almost entirely withdrawn, and so the matter at present stood. As regarded the scheme, however, he would like to point out that Bhagawangola was likely to prove anything but a satisfactory terminus, as owing to the vagaries of the river it would probably be as troublesome as Goalundo. He also explained how hard it was for a local railway to compete with any good water traffic, and instanced the Bengal Central Railway to Khulna. Here a good passenger traffic no doubt might ensure success to a well-laid and cheaply worked line, but the Government of India certainly would never grant funds, so they must be provided by local capitalists, and the Bengal Government would give every other assistance in its power. As regarded the complaints of the discomforts of travelling via Nalhati, His Honor was glad to be able to say that the East Indian Raliway were going to take over the line and would not only alter the gauge, but would doubtless improve the timing and arrange other such conveniences. Of the project for a railway from Goalundo through Poradah His Honor had never before heard, and could, therefore, make no remarks.

His Honor again had occasion to refer to the unfortunate religious disputes which have become chronic in Indian communities:

There was one other topic of great importance on which he wished to say a few words. Recently during his visit to Hughli he had had occasion to call upon the good sense and enlightenment of the community to settle amicably a misunderstanding which had arisen between a Hindu gentleman and his Mahomedan neighbours, and had called upon them to exercise a spirit of toleration in religious matters. Here in Murshidabad a misunderstanding had arisen, not between Hindus and Mahomedans, but between two sects of Mahomedans, which it behoved those present, the representatives of the oldest families of Mahomedan power in Bengal and leaders of Mahomedan society, to allay at once and for always.

This has reference to the disputes between Shias and Sunnis to which we referred in a recent issue and about which a memorial has been presented to His Honor.

By far the most important part of his Honor's reply related to floods. His Honor said:—

The question of embankments was one of exceeding difficulty. The present inclination, however, of the Irrigation Department was to abolish as many embankments as possible, so as to allow the rivers to freely overflow the surrounding country and deposit its fertilising silt, and thus improve the later crops. This deposit, too, would also tend to raise the surrounding country above flood level and to keep the river in their beds. Embanking, on the other land, meant that the river, bound to deposit its silt somewhere, had to deposit it in its own bed, the level of which was consequently raised. This meant raising embakments and so on alternately, till the level of the bed of the river got to be well above that of the neighbouring country, and that a breach in the embankment at one point caused a terrible disaster. There was, therefore, no hope whatsoever that Government would undertake any system of embankments which was deemed to be a shortsighted policy of reaping the benefits of the present at the risk of future danger and loss, but that a policy would be followed of letting nature have her way and protecting the country by her own natural means.

His Honor had not, we presume, then seen the Laltakuri breach and his decision was premature and the result of departmental influence. If what is stated above be His Honor's deliberate decision he might as well not have made any personal inspection at all. The Government that takes care to have embankments on one side of the railway *right and pucca* for the protection of railways, can ill afford to talk of nature doing its own work. Nature is made responsible for unnatural work of havoc and devastation every year for the protection of particular interests, and by the time that the silting process raises the level of the adjacent countries sufficiently, which may take a geological period for aught we know, there will be few enough people to occupy and cultivate the fertilised land. This is a sort of hoodwinking logic that the Irrigation Department has long tried in vain and which should not be countenanced by an upright and sympathetic ruler like Sir Charles. If the water-way was free on both the banks the sufferings perhaps would be less and fertilisation would perhaps be accelerated to some effect. But as it is, the Department is simply licensed in the work of annual destruction. If no system of protective embankments can be undertaken the Government and the Railway Companies should buy in the affected tract and sell at a profit after the improvements so glowingly described have been effected by nature. To Sir Charles Elliott we look for a more enlightened and sound and a less selfish embankment policy, and we yet hope that His Honor will change his opinion as he has now witnessed the vestiges of suffering. His Honor inspected the Laltakuri Embankment the next day in company with the engineering advisers of Government.

His Honor will not leave the plains until some time in September. On completion of his present tour his Honor will return to the Presidency for a couple of weeks and then go up to Darjeeling. While here Sir Charles Elliott will hold a meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council, at which the Hackney Carriage Bill will be finally considered.

THE TRIBES AND CASTES OF BENGAL.

BOTH in point of literary merit and the vast and useful information which in a compendious form it presents to the reading public, the Ethnographic glossary published by Mr. H. H. Risley stands next in importance to the *Imperial Gazetteer* of Sir W. W. Hunter. The work may not be an epoch-making one, but its value in respect of scientific researches and the substantial administrative benefits to accrue from them, it is impossible to over-estimate. Neither can there be any question that the work has supplied a real and long-left desidratum in our scientific literature. The history of the work is simply this: The Government of India, at the instance of the Census Commissioner in 1882, had suggested that steps should be taken towards the collection of more precise information regarding the castes and occupations of the people of India; and accordingly Mr. Risley was selected and deputed for two years to prosecute the ethnographic researches contemplated. Every district was requested to nominate one or more of his subordinates, who might be qualified and willing to assist in collecting information for their respective districts or sub-divisions. Subsequently Mr. Risley's deputation on special duty was extended to the 31st March 1888 with the approval of the Secretary of State for India. The present work, consisting of two volumes, is the result of four years' labour and contains the ethnographic glossary of all the castes, tribes, sub-castes and sections of which a substantial number of representatives is found in Bengal, with an introductory essay on caste in relation to marriage.

The Glossary is a mine of valuable information. The greatest and purest castes of India, the Brahmins and Rajputs are said to be exotics in Bengal, and it is only in Upper India, we are told, that a full understanding of their main permanent sub-divisions and of the mutual relations of those sub-divisions, can be obtained. A point is raised here which we need not stop to discuss. Suffice it to say that the Glossary contains much learned information respecting those clans or individuals of those castes who have emigrated into Bengal and whose descendants have established local sub-castes with local customs of their own. But it is with regard to the numerous lower castes which have sprung up in Bengal and to the representatives of the aboriginal race who have more or less come under Hinduising influences that the information in these volumes is fullest and most abundant. Regarding such tribes and castes it certainly contains the most complete account that has hitherto been put on official record.

The Glossary will also be of the greatest administrative value. The more Government officers know about the religious and social customs of the people of their districts, the better able they will be to deal with either the possible social problems of the future or with the practical questions arising in their ordinary work. In this way, many an administrative blunder and legislative oddity will be avoided. There will also be established that wider and deeper sympathy between the Executive and Judicial officers and the people of the country which alone ensures a firm and effective Go-

vernment, and renders it possible for that Government to exercise any influence for good over that people. The Lieutenant-Governor in his Resolution very soundly advises all administrative and executive officers to make constant reference to Mr. Risley's work for their own immediate advantage.

In his introductory essay, Mr. Risley touches in the light of his varied scholarship on a number of questions in connection with the castes and customs of the people, but principally on the origin of exogamy. This he attributes to a sort of natural selection, that is, to the discovery that close interbreeding leads to physical weakness. He, however, omits to mention that the practice of endogamy preceded that of exogamy. Mr. Risley also offers valuable observations on the origin of totemism, the effect of marriage custom on female infanticide, widow and infant marriage and the law and influence of hypergamy.

Soon after the commencement of his investigations, Mr. Risley proposed to supplement his enquiries into the tribes and castes of Bengal by an examination, on the methods approved by European anthropologists, of the physical characteristics of certain selected castes and tribes. As all castes are endogamous, they preserve the purity of their blood in a degree which cannot exist in other nations where cross-marriages are common. If, therefore, there is truth in the theory that certain physical characteristics and proportions are persistent and hereditary, and differ in different races, Indian castes offer a field for testing this theory which cannot be equalled elsewhere. Accordingly he set himself to prepare statistics of the weight and height, the facial angle and the specific dimensions of the head, nose, cheek, bones, orbits, fore-head and zygomatic arches of a hundred individuals in each of 87 castes. These figures occupy two volumes of anthropometric data; but Mr. Risley has not yet indicated what conclusions can, in his opinion, be deduced from this laborious compilation. The Lieutenant-Governor assures the public that he will always gladly welcome and do all in his power, consistently with economy, to encourage anthropometric enquiries.

The Resolution of the Bengal Government says that the Lieutenant-Governor cannot venture to hope that anything like the final word has yet been spoken on the numerous and important lines opened out for discussion in Mr. Risley's volumes, and that therefore His Honor invites the criticism of all Commissioners, District and Sub-Divisional officers, and other persons interested with a view to supplement the deficiencies incidental to such an undertaking. On receipt of sufficent corrections and fresh materials, a revised edition will be published.

A scheme in outline has been submitted by Mr. Risley for the continuation of ethnographical researches in the Lower Provinces. Its main features are—the appointment of an unpaid Director of ethnological enquiries in the circuation of ethnographic questions, the selection of subjects for enquiry, the preparation of monographs on castes, tribes, social groups and different branches of custom and folklore and their distribution to learned societies in Europe.

His Honor gladly acknowledges the excellent work done by Mr. Risley. These volumes bear testimony to his ability, literary power, and industry, as well as to his rare gift of philosophical and historical insight. His work in the field of Anthropology has already established his reputation with University authorities in England and learned societies in Europe and has gained for him the signal distinction of Honorary Member of the French Academy.

LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE.

THE Report on the operations of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, N. W. P. and Oudh, for the year ending 30th September, 1890, is an official production of more than an ordinary interest and is important in the same proportion as agriculture is important to the future of India. This is essentially an agricultural country, and anything that throws light on the way in which the indigenous system of cultivation may be improved cannot be a matter of indifference to any right-thinking person interested in his country's welfare.

The bulk of the Report is mainly taken up by an account of the agricultural activity of the provinces, and it is not always easy to find facts and suggestions of more permanent value than are given under this head. The facts bearing on each of the subjects treated under this head are matters of an abiding interest both to the scientist and the economist.

In a country like India which, despite its congested towns, is in many parts a wild medley of hills and torrents and forest and heath, the reclamation of waste land and lands known as *usar* lands at a minimum of cost is a subject of vast importance to its economical future. The reclamation of *usar* lands is being effected in the provinces under review by the simple process of enclosing and fencing them with posts and pillars. The theory of the experiment was that by means of simple enclosure for five or six years the soil would be much improved, and it was expected that the natural growth of hardy trees would turn them into useful reserves of fuel and fodder. The results have hitherto been disappointing. Enclosure encouraged no doubt a healthy growth of the *usar* grass and a good deal of money was made from the sale of it, but very little improvement was seen either in the character of the soil or the nature of the grass. There was also some difficulty in finding a market for all the grass, but it was not stacked, as we are told will be done this year.

The chief difficulty in the reclamation of these *usar* lands lies in the character of the soil which is wretchedlyinfected with the saline efflorescence known as *reh*. They do not even serve the purpose of fuel reserves because of the stunted growth and the ultimate destruction of hardy trees which spring up naturally on them. Fine results have been attained in the three out of the four plots under experiment by the breaking up of the soil and letting it to tenants, and this certainly ought to incite both Government and private enterprise alike to larger undertakings. At any rate this system of enclosure should not be summarily abandoned. Whether or not the experiment proves eventually remunerative, it would be a mistake to abandon it. The annual expenditure is very trifling, and it would be desirable for scientific purposes that changes in the character of soil regarded as unculturable, resulting from simple enclosure, should continue to be observed.

The Local Government in its resolution, dated the 26th May, 1891, expresses itself in favour of deep-ploughing and manuring, and its position is apparently strengthened by the partial success of the system in the *usar* plot of Cherat in the district of Aligarh. But, bating this success, which even at the most liberal calculation is not much, the whole thing is more a theory and pure speculation than the result of scientific demonstration; and Mr. Medlicott's opinion that, deep-ploughing by breaking up the soil helps the saline deposit when in solution to escape to the underground waters and thereby improves the character of the soil, remains to be corroborated yet by practical experience. We have seen that in Bengal deep-ploughing and manuring have not been quite efficacious, but the results may be otherwise in hill tracts and in lands infected with *reh*; and this has yet to be seen. We do not, therefore, advocate the reckless trial of the experiment and should view with distrust any considerable undertaking unless under peculiarly hopeful circumstances. Manuring and deep-ploughing are subjects of supreme importance to the economy of the country, and it would not be altogether an unprofitable task to push on inquiries in those matters.

The farming activity of the provinces is said to be generally satisfactory though the number of experimental farms is small, and it is a clear indication of the improved general intelligence. Experiments have shewn the general superiority of the country-seeds, but exotic plants and exotic seeds are being largely tried without any appreciable pecuniary loss. The encalyptus is likely to be a commodity of immense commercial value as the leaves are said, upon good authority, to be of great utility in the cleaning of engine boilers. But the plantations of the Arabian date-palm proved a failure on account of the destruction caused by a species of grub which was suspected to have come with the grafts from abroad.

The agricultural exhibitions ought to engage more of the attention of District officers than they have hitherto done, and they should be regarded more as institutions of practical utility and channels of practical information than as diversions. It has been remarked that in those exhibitions the implements attract a good deal of attention, but the difficulty in their adoption would seem to lie chiefly in their costliness and the general dearth of trained labour. Under these circumstances increased facilities should be provided for the loan of the agricultural implements from the Government experimental farms, and it would be in the highest degree improper to create artificial difficulties in the way of the purchase and loan of such implements as are meant, we are assured, in the rule of prepayment in cash and of the full price of packing and carriage. The system of deputing trained men from the Government farm to private ones should be more largely practised, and the country would gain enormously thereby in economical strength.

The heaviness of draught of the ploughs made in the Government workshops is a very serious difficulty in the more current use of them, and unless something be done to obviate this difficulty, they would never be able to supplant the country ploughs.

The most interesting fact among the operations of the Department is perhaps the procuring of 36,000 maunds of gram and barley during the scarcity of Garwahl. The Director says he was in great difficulty for the necessary amount, and the Local Government sees in it nothing but a failure of harvest and brisk export to the London market on account of the high rate prevailing there and a fallen exchange. But the Government should not dispose of this serious matter in such a light-hearted way. The question is one of vital importance to the well-being of the people, and the necessity of some sort of embargo on the export trade may be seriously considered.

The question of emigration of cultivators from the confested towns to the Central Provinces has been curtly disposed of by Mr. Holderness with the remark that it could not be effected because the cultivators were not wanted in the 600 square miles of land admittedly lying waste there! This is a fiction which would require more credulity than we have to believe. The explanation would seem to lie more in the want of judgment of the chief administrator of those provinces than in anything else. If Mr. Fuller had shewn a little less of the mercantile spirit which always distinguishes John Bull, we feel sure the cultivators would not have been discouraged by either the rugged nature of the soil or the unhealthy atmosphere, and the outlay and loss would have been amply recouped in the near future. It is absurd to suppose that cultivators will emigrate to a distant land unless the advantages over-balance the disadvantages, and they see that they get commensurate concessions in return for all the trouble and hardship they undergo.

A SENSATIONAL TELEGRAM.

BEFORE going to press last week we had placed in our hands a copy of the following sensational telegram, purporting to have been sent by Babu Janakinath Bysak from Lakhim, evidently on his way to Calcutta:—

Captain Du Moulin, the worthy correspondent of the *Pioneer*, and Captain Judge, of the 2nd Goorkhas, another correspondent of some other English journal, went to the house of one Gopal Singh, son of Laima Pakpa Lana Hazari, for the obstensible purpose of forcibly taking away some metal idols from his temple, which, however, was a mere pretence for plunder. Gopal Sing offered resistance, and the two redoubtable sons of Mars fell on the innocent man and assaulted him brutally, thereby causing grievous hurt by breaking his two front teeth with a crow-bar found in the temple. The mal-

treated Gopal then returned blows and kicks with interest. The heroes thus getting terribly infuriated, returned to the palace and came back with a reinforcement of about 300 coolies of battery and transport, as the sepoys could not be had without the orders of the General Officer Commanding, and mercilessly plundered Gopal's and the surrounding houses, about a thousand in number, of Laima Pokham Sonamahi, Unam Jarmartan Chingaktam, Sevanjum, Turhanmusam. Lahom Chingamukhi, Namboolwangha Srikais, clothes, utensils, rice, paddy, cows, ponies, gold, and silver, cash, and ornaments were looted. Some of the Manipuris were assaulted most ruthlessly. I being a resident of Sonamoki Likai was also a victim. I complained next morning to the Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, who sympathised with me, and tried to have my properties returned by battery men, but all in vain. Only rags and broken utensils were shown, as though in mockery. Captain Du Moulin, of *Pioneer* fame, and one of the heroes of this tragedy, was pleased to report me in the columns of the *Pioneer* as being rather notorious in Kohima and Manipur, *et cetera*, but he himself and the impartial public will now be in a position to decide whether or not he has acted far more notoriously and in a far wider sphere by his above-mentioned doing, deeds of pillage and plunder, than my humble self, who has had no such glaring antecedent of barbarous heroism to brag of.

The telegram was sensational enough to take one's breath away and yet was circumstantial to a degree. We did not, however, think it proper to give publicity to such a document without further information, though some other contemporaries had published it. Nothing satisfactory has yet been said in explanation and the *Pioneer*, against the special correspondent of which the charge is categorically made, is silent. The *Englishman* has come to the rescue and vouchsafed the following explanation :—

Two officers were out for a ride one morning, and saw a large house on the road-side, about quarter of a mile from the Palace. The house, like many others in the locality, appeared to be deserted, and on examination this was found to be the case. The officers on entering the empty house saw signs on the floor which led them to suspect that Residency property was buried there. They instituted a casual search on the spot, and while so engaged were set upon by from twelve to fifteen Manipuris, who pounced upon them in a body. One of the officers was borne to the ground by the sheer weight of his opponents, and it is no exaggeration to say that for a time his life was endangered. Fortunately, after a fierce but brief struggle, the two Englishmen were able to beat off the gang of over a dozen Manipuris, and they then returned to the Barracks; the incident, as far as they are concerned, ending at that point. That an event so promising should end thus tamely did not, apparently, satisfy the artistic sense of Janaki and his friends, and they were at no loss for a telling *denoument*. Luckily for them, in the very nick of time a disturbance took place in Manipur in which the Transport coolies looted some of the houses near the lines.

This is not satisfactory, for though according to our Hare Street contemporary there may be no necessary link between the two incidents, either is ugly enough and calls for a careful enquiry. Such lawlessness either in "officers and gentlemen" or transport coolies is intolerable even in a "conquered" country and for the fair fame of Government to be untarnished one must be very jealous of such rowdyism. The apology for search for Residency property in the manner described is a lame one and will not bear a moment's examination. As for the cooly disturbance it would never have seen light but for Babu Janakinath Bysak's telegram. He being one of the aggrieved laid a complaint in Manipur and seems to have been scoffed at. Seeing how private telegrams fared he did not communicate with the outer world till he was safe beyond the military jurisdiction. This accounts for the delay and it is a pity that for reasons explained in another column he has to observe reticence for some time. There should be an enquiry all the same and its results promptly published and public alarm allayed.

Babu Janaki Nath Bysak has, in the meantime, arrived in Calcutta and writes:—

A great many statements have appeared in the newspapers regarding Manipur affairs, in connection with my name. I shall have much to say on these matters when the proper time comes. At present my time is fully occupied in instructing counsel on behalf of the Manipur Princes, whose appeals must reach the Viceroy by the 31st of this month. I am also advised that it would not be desirable for me to enter into any controversies regarding Manipur affairs before the written representations on behalf of the Princes have been forwarded to the Government of India.

We commend Janaki Babu's prudence in the interests of his clients and trust that the representation on their behalf will not be too late. The official papers have long reached Simla.

THE EXAMINATIONS FOR SUB-DEPUTY COLLECTORSHIPS.

WITH his usual promptitude and regard for public opinion, Sir Charles Elliott has responded to our request for publication of the results of examination of candidates for appointment as Sub-Deputy Collectors. There is a long resolution on this subject in the last number of the *Calcutta Gazette*, according to which the result of the examination was not satisfactory. The marks obtained by almost all the candidates were low in the aggregate, and a scrutiny of the details showed no marked proficiency in any single subject. After a careful consideration of the papers set at the examination and the marks obtained, the Lieutenant-Governor came to the conclusion that the only candidate who showed such proficiency as would justify his selection for appointment as a Sub-Deputy Collector was Babu Kanja Behari Goswami, B.L.; he was, therefore, appointed on the 2nd June last. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets his inability to appoint any of the others. As, however, several of the candidates for Deputy Magistrate-Collectorships who had obtained upwards of one third marks, but who had not been selected to be probationers for the Provincial Service, showed considerable proficiency, the Lieutenant-Governor has decided to select three of them to be appointed at once temporary Sub-Deputy Collectors, and eight to be probationers in training for Sub-Deputy Collectorships on Rs 30 per mensem. The last contingent was necessitated by more Deputy Magistrates being wanted for various reasons during the year than had been calculated. The Lieutenant-Governor has found that the number of officers required for the Provincial Service to fill up the permanent and temporary vacancies this year is at least 26 instead of 8 as was anticipated ten months ago. In order to meet this deficiency, the Lieutenant-Governor appointed early in the year 17 gentlemen to be probationary Deputy Magistrate-Collectors on Rs. 200 per mensem, of whom eight were candidates who had been selected at the examination last year, and nine were Special Deputy Collectors or Sub-Deputy Collectors promoted. Besides these Messrs. Lucas, Craven and Lane have been appointed Deputy Magistrates for the Santhal Parganahs. In order to meet the requirements of the coming year, the Lieutenant-Governor has decided to appoint as probationers of the Executive branch of the Provincial Service on a salary of Rs. 50 per mensem, sixteen gentlemen, who at the recent examination obtained upwards of one-third marks and appear to be otherwise qualified. So far so good perhaps. But our appeal on behalf of those who had pledges given to them or had otherwise claims on Government has gone for nothing. When so many extra appointments had to be made, their claims might well have been taken into consideration instead of taking in those who had only a sort of constructive qualification so to speak. We trust something will yet be done for them.

THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE BILL.

REFERRING to our remarks on the Hackney Carriage Bill the *Indian Daily News* does us the honor of observing as follows :—

The *Patriot* takes exception to the enhancement of fares. He intimates that as regards better carriages, there is no need for new provision. Those that have done duty in the second class drop into the third which is supplied from that source. Perhaps a like process supplies the cattle and appendages. Our contemporary contends that there is no need to raise the rates, inasmuch as there will be no fresh demand upon that class, and contrary to common opinion, it is the best paying service. It carries cheaply, and thus serves a large community on terms suitable to their means, while without such cheap service the poor people would have to walk, except in districts that are served by the tramway, which only touches certain parts of the city. He contends that to raise the rates will be to deprive the poor of a cheap means of conveyance, and thus possibly also do injury to the owners of these miserable teams who, under present conditions, are not inadequately paid. These are matters on which considerable deference must be paid to native opinion and experience, without the conservative spirit merely as such being allowed to stand in the way of a seeming needful improvement.

We go a step further and claim that improvements, very little of which will satisfy those using the third class carriages, can easily be made within existing means, and as a matter of fact some carriages are tolerably decent though they do not get higher fares. Some standard ought to be fixed below which no licenses in any class should be issued and proportionate improvements should be insisted on. The second class carriages were sometimes similarly improved, a certain number of vehicles being taken in hand every year. All the carriages were thus improved within certain limits, and no enhancement of fare was necessary, nor was there any hardship felt by the owners. Why should not the process of "filtration downwards" as some one calls it obtain in the case of third class carriages also? Increase of third class fares would mean something more than certain people having to walk or use the tram to the detriment of owners. Poor Hindu and Mussulman females who would no more think of walking than of using trams would be put to the greatest possible inconvenience, and they would prefer the ricketiest trap imaginable—to the danger of their lives and limbs—to the costly and fashionable vehicles. Every reform ought to be made having regard to the requirements and capabilities of the country and the community and impossibilities should not be attempted for they cannot be achieved. This is a matter that should be strongly represented to the legislature for on every *Parva* and *Joga* day Hindu females who go out in hundreds to bathe in the Ganges would be practically deprived of an opportunity to do so. There is another matter to which we would draw the attention of Government once more, namely, the desirability of vesting the Corporation with summary powers of punishment. Police prosecutions would be few and far between from the very nature of things and the administration of the Act would be as unsatisfactory as ever. Whatever little powers there remained before they have been taken away by the Select Committee, and the Council alone can cope with these defects if it is so inclined. The Corporation met last week again to emphasise these points and we trust their and public representation will be listened to. The proposed enhancement of second classes from Rs. 3 to 3-8 for 9 hours is absolutely without any justification and the protest against it cannot be too strong. The best livery-stable keepers do not think of charging as much.

Latest News and Notes.

THE Viceroy's indisposition was more serious than was apprehended at first. It was a case of influenza and His Excellency was confined to his rooms for several days. We are glad to learn, however, that His Excellency has now completely shaken it off and is so far convalescent as to have been able to attend the Council meeting on Thursday last.

IT is said that early in January the Viceroy will hold Chapters of the Order of the Star of India and the Indian Empire, to which all the native Chiefs and Princes and others who are members of those Orders will be invited. Lord Wenlock, the Governor of Madras, will visit Calcutta and will be invested with the first class of one of the Orders as an extra member.

THE abnormal weather now prevailing, following close upon the dog-days, has led to much sickness in the town and the country. Cold and fever of a peculiar kind are fearfully raging and many are down with it though a few go about even under the attack. It is of a somewhat contagious type and some people call it Influenza. Squally weather prevailed during the end of the week and cyclone signals were hoisted.

MR. A. SMITH will act as Chairman of the Committee for revising existing factory rules according to the amended Act. The members of the Committee will be the Commissioner of Police,

Calcutta, the Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs, the Magistrate of Howrah, the Hon. J. L. Mackay, C.I.E., and Raja Peary Mohun Mukerjee, C.S.I.

WE are sorry to be unable to report any progress towards recovery of our esteemed friend Raja Rajendralala Mitra, L. L. D. He has practically lost all power of speech and is for the most part unconscious. He is supposed to be fast sinking inspite of the constant watchfulness of his medical attendants and his condition is generally considered precarious.

THE venerable Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar is no better. Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar agrees with Dr. Salzar that there is no cancer in the intestines, but the distinguished patient shows no appreciable improvement. Fever has prostrated him and he is confined to his bed, a circumstance that never perhaps occured in his life, though he has often and long been ill. He could go about with assistance formerly but he cannot do so now. The distaste for food is great and all that he can retain is a small quantity of fresh ass's milk. Dr. Salzer has given up the case as hopeless and Electro-homeopathy is being tried. There have been too many and too rapid changes in the system of treatment unfortunately. We were misled into reporting that his Will and Trust Deed have been executed. This has not been done, though several attempts were made.

ANOTHER worthy son of Bengal is confined to bed of illness, perhaps of death. Babu Kali Krishna Mitter, the sage of Barasat, whom all who know, love and honor, is in the last stage of thisis and the end may not be very far. He himself fears not the catastrophe but awaits its approach with calm patience and noble fortitude that have always distinguished his life and character. His last days are being enlivened and made easy as best as they may be by Babu Kali Charan Ghosh his nephew-in-law and his son by Babu Jadu Nath Ghosh with whom he is now stopping and who are unremitting in their care and attention. His devoted wife by her ceaseless watching is supposed to have contracted the fell disease. The doings of an ungrateful relative have painfully expedited the progress of his malady.

WE are sorry to hear that Babu Ram Tanu Lahiri, who considering his age has been keeping his health marvellously well, is suffering from severe inflamation of his eyes. He is under Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar's treatment.

DR. KOCH has resigned all public offices owing to the failure of his cure for consumption.

MR. GLAZIER of the Jamalpur mela fame has threatened resignation because of the unwillingness or inability of Government "to rectify one of the cruel wrongs of Sir Steuart Bayley's administration." So says the *Englishman* evidently referring to Mr. Glazier's removal from Mymensing after his feats there and stoppage of his promotion. Mr. Glazier had appealed to the Government of India and the Secretary of State in vain and is now going to resign.

THE Shambazar rioting cases were to have been taken up in the next Alipur sessions. The Sessions commence on the 30th instant and Messrs. Garth and White were retained for the defence. An application to the Sessions Judge to that effect having failed, Messrs. Hill and White applied to the High Court for trial of all the accused together and for postponement of the case as office copies of depositions in the Magistrate's Court have not yet been received. The High Court has refused to interfere with the orders of the Sessions Judge as regards the first prayer. As regards the second a rule has been issued, returnable tomorrow.

ALL honor to Sir Charles Elliott and glory to British Rule. The Government is to be prevented from being guilty of a gross and deplorable breach of faith with the public. The sense of justice and fairness on the part of Sir Charles has put a stop to the summary abolition of the Hindu School, on which Sir Alfred Croft had set is heart, so much so that he issued orders without waiting to see what His Honor would have to say to the representations of the British Indian Association, which, it must have been apprehended, would have some untoward and undesirable effects on the Lieutenant-Governor's mind. As we informed our readers some time ago, Sir Charles Elliott had not the the slightest idea as to the breach of faith that was being committed and his orders were sought in the usual routine of business way. But he is far too awake on all that passes, and the representations in these column drew his attention which set afloat a careful enquiry, the results of which fully bore out the allegations of the British Indian Association and supported its reasons. Next came the appeal of the representatives of the Hereditary Governors of the institution, which we published in our last issue, added to which, we had the invaluable aid of Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, K.C.S.I., who personally exerted in the matter, with a will and devotion worthy of the cause. The combination had its desired effect and Sir Alfred has been checkmated. Sir Charles has telegraphed to him that the Hindu School is not to be abolished and its exclusive character is not to be interfered with. Had we a less strong man at the head of our affairs, the recall of *fiat* of the Director of Public Instruction would hardly have been possible. His Honor has earned the thanks of the entire Hindu community and we are sure they will be heartily and sincerely accorded.

THE Locust plague which has been spreading consternation throughout the country left tea-planters some consolation that, however other crops might fare, their own "concerns" would be left untouched as locusts did not care for drugs that cheer without initiating. This pleasant delusion is now gone for a planter bears testimony to the locust's fondness for young tea in absence of anything better, though perhaps old ones are safe. As, however, plantations are chiefly situated in jungly environments more palatable food is generally near and the planters' inconveniences may be more limited than those of the ordinary ryot. In the meantime the havoc committed by the plague is great throughout the country. Added to this the defecient rainfall makes wide spread scarcity a certainty. Floods have already set in in Eastern Bengal and the country around Dacca is one sheet of water. Distress and sickness consequently prevail.

THE Calcutta Tramway Company has taken up the work of improvement in hand betimes. The lines are being shifted from the middle to one side of the road in Dalhousie Square South, and the similar improvements will be made in other streets.

THEY have been discussing the question of Siamese autonomy in Parliament last week. In the House of Lords Lord Lamington suggested that Government should invite the Powers to guarantee the autonomy of Siam in order to prevent France from encroaching on India. Lord Salisbury in reply said that Siam only interested England and France, and that he did not believe that the independence of Siam was threatened by France. The Premier, in replying to a suggestion of Lord Lamington, said that the independence of that kingdom was very important to England, and that he hoped it was not less so to France.

HIS Excellency the Governor of Madras will cut the first sod of the Nilgiri Railway at Coonoor early in August.

IT is satisfactory to learn that the Sambalpur branch of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. This branch will open out yet another portion of the country, rich in the wealth of nature and of future commercial and industrial importance.

OUR readers will be sorry to hear that the Hon. Babu Bireshwar Mittra, of Benares, Municipal Commissioner and member of the Provincial Legislative Council, died of cholera on Saturday morning before last. He was a man of much enlightenment, and took a keen interest in municipal reforms. His untimely death is much regretted by all.

WE have seen that Hindus and Mahomedans do not alone fight as between themselves on account of religion but that Mahomedans do the samething between themselves. Though no new discovery, it will be interesting to know in this concern that Christians fight Christians in the same manner. Last week the London police arrested the members of a Salvation Army band at Eastbourne owing to a riot being imminent with the inhabitants, who resented the disturbance created by the Salvationists in the streets. There is nothing unnatural in this, though these fights and disturbances are all wrong and must be put down with a heavy hand as threatening the peace of the community and the State as a whole. But what enlightened Christiandom is as fully capable of as the most backward of heathens, should not be pretended to be looked upon with such unusual abhorrence in the light of a novelty that Christianity heartily loathes. The "hanging day" policy of the *Indian Daily News* and proposals for razing the object of disputes will hardly hold in these cases.

WE regret to hear that Mr. Eardley Norton of Madras is ill. He is lying at the local General Hospital, where he will undergo an operation.

MR. PARNELL'S amour difficulties are not yet over, though the quandom Mrs. O'Shea is now Mrs. Parnell safe and sure enough. Zealous vindictiveness of the ex-husband follows him close. A notice in bankruptcy has been served on him for the non-payment of Captain O'Shea's costs in the divorce suit. Mr. Parnell will move to have the order set aside on the ground that he is not domiciled in England.

RIOTS between Hindus and Mahomedans are reported from Rajapore in the Bombay Presidency. A telegram, bearing date the 15th instant, says:—"A mob of Mussulmans assaulted the Hindus during a religious procession, last evening, with sticks and stones. The Hindus were proceeding with the Magistrate's permission. The Mahomedans, with a chief Constable at their head, attacked the procession with stones, injuring many Hindus very severely. The Post Office was also attacked with stones, the windows broken, and the Post-Master wounded. The public thoroughfares were patrolled by bands of Mahomedans. The public offices were closed, and all traffic stopped. The Police were inactive. The Mamlatdar is now absent on tour. Further riots and loss of life are apprehended. The day before yesterday a Hindu was belabour-ed within an inch of his life. No one dared yesterday to walk to the Telegraph Office. Some houses were broken into, last night."

SAYUD AMIR HOSSEIN, our popular Northern Magistrate, has returned to his duties. He was ailing during a portion of his leave, but is now much better. On the whole the change to Bombay and Puna has done him good.

THE residents of Bally, headed by Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee, C. S. I., have, we understand, forwarded a petition to the House of Commons against the Age of Consent Act. The petition is accompanied by numerous extracts from newspapers and the opinions of prominent native gentlemen opposed to the Act. Copies of the petition and its supplement have been forwarded to several members of Parliament and to prominent individuals in England.

SOME contemporaries in ignorance of facts and native papers with a commendable desire of furthering "the burial of the hatchet" have approved of Sir Charles Elliott's memorable Hugli speech. His Honor as well as these journalists assume that the Hindu gentleman in question was actuated by a wanton desire to insult his neighbours' religion as if a meek Hindu would dare do any such thing. There was a talk of Civil suit and all that on the part of the Mahomedans for having their rights established in a court of law. But no suit was as a matter of fact instituted, for there was no right to dispute or establish, no annoyance, no nuisance. The *Indian Mirror* has collected the facts of the case, which may be shortly stated to be as follows:—

The house, occupied by the Hindu gentleman, is not adjoining the prayer hall of the Imambara, but has the Mutwali's private residence, a fruit-tree garden and another house, generally let out to Hindu gentlemen, all belonging to the Imambara, in the midst. There is a narrow lane after this, dividing the private residence of the Mutwali from the Hindu gentleman's house. The Hindu gentleman in question performs his worship of the family idol in a perfectly quiet way, without the least intention of annoying his Mussulman neighbours. The fact that he does this only twice, at 10 A.M., and at 7½ P.M., respectively, every day, when the followers of the Prophet are not in prayers, as a rule, and not at other times, and that, with the least noise, for only five minutes and ten minutes respectively, shows that he has no idea of annoying his Mussulman neighbours. We understand that when proposals for settlement are brought to him, he always intimates his desire that, if the Imambara people inform him of the hours of their prayers, he will be always too glad to avoid such hours in the performance of his worship of the idol. But they refuse to do so, we do not know why. The Imambara people slaughter cows during the *Bakrid* festival in a plot of land, facing the bed-room of the Hindu gentleman, and near the bathing *ghat*, used by the Hindus.

The grievance is, therefore, all on the side of Hindus, for slaughter of cows in their view is a far greater insult to their religion than any non-Hindus whether the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal or otherwise can imagine. Sir Charles has on one-sided information come to, and given expression to, conclusions which no court of law with proper materials before it would ever think of coming to. But Mahomedans are now satisfied with his *obiter dictum* which they can make a grand capital of and they no longer care for an authoritative ruling which they can never hope to obtain. We repeat these thoughtless observations, though conceived and made in the best of spirits, cause infinite mischief and we are sorry that such cool, deliberate and clear-headed an administrator like Sir Charles Elliott should have furnished occasion for it.

MORE complaints come against members of the Subordinate Judicial Service. The members of the Kustea bar through their organ, the *Hitakari*, preferred certain charges against Babu Sarada Prasanna Shome, the local Small Cause Court Judge, which the High Court is enquiring into. The Muktears and revenue agents of the place have, however, contradicted the Hitakari's report. But the High Court has thought fit to transfer Babu Sarada Prasanna. Babu Ananda Kumar Sarvadhikari, Subordinate Judge of Dacca, has been appointed in his place to act as the Small Cause Court Judge of Kustear Chuadanga and Meherpur.

THERE was a change of programme at the Emerald Theatre on Wednesday last, when the management placed on the board *Navin Tapaswini*, of Rai Dinabandhu Mitter Bahadur. The piece was productive of good deal of mirth and amusement, and Mr. Mustaffi, the veteran comedian, as *Jaladhar*, kept the audience abursting with laughter. The part of *Jagadamva* was played with no less credit and skill. The performance on the whole was excellent and proved to be a decided success.

IN anticipation of the abolition of the Hindu School, a consummation devoutly wished for, though not attained, Babu Chundi Charan Banerjee and Haralal Roy have been made to retire on pension. Perhaps there is no objection to the proceeding under the '55 years' rule or some other red-tapism. The boys who loved their teachers well, wanted to give them a farewell address in the School Theatre. To this strangely enough Mr. Tawney objected as "it would be against Government." We do not exactly know what the phrase may mean, but think that Government orders on the subject do not contemplate the contingency of retirement. The boys shifted ground and wanted to hold their demonstration in the Albert Hall, many like which had been allowed in the Presidency College premises before. Babu Haralal Roy, however, has written to the papers to say that for many important reasons he will not accept the address. That settles the difficulty but in a by-no-means satisfactory way. As for Mr. Tawney himself, he needs not apprehend any such catastrophe on his own account.

ANGLO-INDIANS are all great *pandits*, particularly in retirement and they set themselves up as authorities on all subjects, particularly Indian. Sir George Chesney, the late Military Member, has been supporting Mr. Quinton's Manipur Policy in the *Times* and the proposed arrest in Durbar. This has drawn a fitting reply from the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Norris, now on leave in England, which we readily make room for:—

Sir George Chesney has been for five years, if he does not still remain so, "a justice of the peace for the whole of British India." Probably he has never performed any magisterial functions; had he done so and thus made himself acquainted with the practice of a magistrate's court, he would hardly have written as follows in his letter appearing in your columns this morning:—"But I venture to think that the proceeding" (*i, e*, the proposed arrest of the Senapati at durbar "was no more open to reproach on that score," *i e*, on the score of dishonesty) "than is the action of a magistrate who issues a summons to a person to appear before him, and then makes out a warrant for his committal to prison." A magistrate having once determined to issue a summons in the first instance, and the accused person having appeared in answer to the summons, could not make out a warrant or the committal of such person to prison until some evidence in support of the charge had been given, and the accused person had had an opportunity of being heard in opposition to an application to commit him. Sir George Chesney will hardly, I think, suggest that Mr. Quinton intended to inquire in durbar whether a *prima facie* case had been made out against the Senapati, or to give him an opportunity of being heard in opposition to the proposal that "he should be interned for a time in British India to keep him out of mischief." For obvious reasons I do not feel myself at liberty to discuss Sir George Chesney's defence of Mr. Quinton's policy.

Justice Norris is a bold lover of truth and its frank exponent. But he is seriously handicapped or otherwise he would be justified in calling Sir George's ideal court a Criminal Martial Court.

SCOTTISH (amateur) heroes do not like to serve the Queen side by side with the effeminate non-Scots. They are to be formed into a separate Volunteer Battalion of Calcutta. What wonder that *kalas* should be hateful at the hour of peril (?) though in peace and on the festive carpet his company is not unacceptable, if he can largely supply iced champagne and give liberal prizes for volunteer shooting. Certain Parsee gentleman has been saying some hard things of late in this concern in the columns of *Truth*.

A MONETARY crisis has arisen in Portugal and the situation is most serious. Numerous meetings of workmen have been held to protest against the state of trade, and Republican cries are being raised. The crisis is owing to the scarcity of coin. The premium on English gold is rising daily. The English Bank of the River Plate has suspended payment owing to the operations of the Argentine Bank Moratorium Act. It is stated that the Bank's liabilities amount to four millions, while the assets are estimated at six millions.

THE Sessions trial of the fourth batch of Benares rioters, consisting of 21 accused, commenced on Monday before a mixed jury. The appeal in the previous cases will be heard in High Court to-day.

RELIGIOUS disputes like may other things are contagious and it is now the turn of the stalwart Shiks to be affected. The centre of dispute is a temple at Narkaldanga which two contending factions claim. The matter has been in the Sealdah Magistracy and the pleader for one of the factions informed the Court that his clients have determined to risk their life in the struggle. Police aid has accordingly to be invoked and the parties are to have nothing to do with the temple till their rights are determined in the Civil Court. Necessary precautions have also been taken against a possible riot. Why should not leaders of both the factions come to an amicable settlement instead of breaking each other's head? Surely some friendly spirit should intervene and bring about reconciliation. The lawyers on either side can do much if they will.

THERE was a serious cow-killing riot in Gya in connection with the Bakrid festival and the ordinary and reserve Police failed to make any impressions. Belligerents on both sides were killed and wounded according to a contemporary and military aid had to be sent for from Dinapur. It is said that Bramhins' holy threads were torn asunder by Mahomedans and the ears of some Hindu mendicants were mutilated. Those arrested are undergoing their trial. In Futwa, a village in Behar, another riot is said to have taken serious proportions.

A CONVICT warden of the Presidency Jail murdered a Chamar prisoner on Saturday before last under circumstances of great cruelty. The man is on his trial and will of course be punished. But strong indignation has juslly been felt on account of the Coroner having sought to throw an unnecessary and unaccountable veil of mystery over the inquest. It is said to have been held with closed doors and Press representatives were not allowed, though repeated applications were made, and though so far as has been known the Jail authorities had no objection to their admission. The natural consequence of these mysterious looking proceedings was the circulation of a report that a serious Jail disturbance had been averted. We trust the Coroner will be called upon to account for his conduct.

THE bulk of the native Press have been calling Mr. Tawney, "Mr. T. of Dr. Pentecost" We dare say this is all wrong. But Mr. Tawney is himself responsible for the existing state of affairs and could extricate himself from the unpleasant position by firmly saying yes or no to the accusation. Government may or may not take cognisance of what has happened, but public confidence will be shaken in an institution, the head of which is supposed to entertain such poor notion of our nation. Though the step would be very ill-advised, we would not be surprised if some of the "monumental liars" who also happen to be guardians of Presidency College students, were to challenge a declaration of opinion by way of test. In the meantime Mr. Tawney has been venting his wrath upon the unfortunate boys. He stopped the promotion of a Scholarship-holder of the third-year class, because he was called away by his parents on account of his marriage and could not go through his class examination. The boy had to get a transfer in consequence and Mr. Tawney's wrath is said to have followed him in the shape of a recommendation for stoppage of his Scholarship as his conduct and progress did not warrant its continuance. Mr. Tawney whose leaden eye always loves the ground is credited with supreme unconsciousness of the moral, physical and intellectual physiognomy of his students, and it is a matter of surprise that he could make these singular discoveries as regards this particular boy. However, he did it, but by some strange irony of fate he was unconsciously but strongly contradicted by his own professors, Messrs. Pedler, Percival, Bose and Roy, not knowing their Chief's views with regard to the boy, gave him certificates testifying to the excellence of his conduct and to his attainments. This, as a wag calls it, is a case of "constructive monumentalism."

WE are glad to notice a "revival" among our students. The Students Association has been once more placed on satisfactory basis and pro-

mises good work. The Presidency College Union also has been resuscitated and it has been determined to award medals to best *extempore* speakers. With few praise-worthy exceptions we are as a rule poor speakers though we are credited with any amount of the gift of the gab. We are always glad of anything that tends to promote the welfare of our students and welcome this reorganisation. The Oxford and Cambridge Unions are so many powers in England and there is no reason why the Presidency College Union and the Students' Association, where some our best young men did and will assemble, should not make themselves useful. It is also satisfactory to see the Presidency College men taking a keen interest in physical sports. We shall be glad to see the Graduates' Association resuscitated also.

THE very praise-worthy endeavours of Mr. Phillips, Collector of Maimansing, to extend the cultivation of cotton in the district and to organise measures for the local manufacture of cotton piece-goods promise to open out a future to the zemindars and ryots of that District which other land-holders might well envy. No crop is nearly as paying to the land-lord and ryot as cotton and Mr. Rivett Carnac showed clearly that in many districts of Bengal the soil is quite good for its cultivation. It is a matter of wonder, therefore, that the land-holders of Bengal have hitherto taken so little to the cultivation of this valuable crop. We have heard much of the growing poverty of land-holders and ryots. Here is a means for not only improving their conditions but also doing at the same time a substantial service to the country. We earnestly hope that the excellent example of Mr. Phillips will be followed by other District Officers.

THE motion in the Bramho defamation case in the High Court, which was made on Tuesday last by Mr. Woodroffe on behalf of Babu Mahesh Chunder Pal, has failed. The High Court has found that Babu Mahesh Chunder Pal is the proprietor of the *Banganibasi* newspaper and as such is responsible for the libel, which is of a gross character. The conviction, therefore, stands good. Public sympathy is however felt for Babu Mahesh Chunder personally as he is known to be an in-offensive man. He is however according to the magistrate and the High Court technically liable and some punishment was no doubt necessary. But there is a feeling that he has been excessively, if not wrongly, punished and the High Court might well have interfered in mitigation of his sentence. No application was made in behalf of the Editor as in their case there was nothing to urge in extenuation and this fact should have been taken into consideration by the High Court in dealing with the application. The proprietor has no doubt to keep sufficient check and control on his paper and editor, and for enforcing such control a heavy fine would have amply met the requirements of justice. It is notorious that the actual writer of the libellous article, whose name is perfectly well known to the prosecution, was never brought up before the Court. Be that as it may and apart from the question of punishment, the conviction on the whole must be a matter of satisfaction to the public, for it will largely aid in bettering the tone and spirit of the Vernacular Press which in some instances stands in need of some reform. It should be no plea that the Anglo-Indian Press is rabid or disloyal after its own fashion. In the interests of the country and for its own safety and prosperity, the native Press cannot be too careful in conduct.

MR. BERNARD, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, has been allowed leave for two months. Mr. E. C. Ryland, officiating Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Police, will act as Deputy Commissioner during Mr. Bernard's absence.

THE Kalighat temple requires looking after evidently. Frequent complaints are received as to its management and pilgrims are as a rule put to many difficulties and inconveniences. On Tuesday the temple gates were kept close up to a late hour in the day because forsooth two *Shebaits*, brothers, had family disputes. The rush of pilgrims owing to *Purnima* festival was great and the inconvenience was proportionate. This should not be the mode of management of important centres of religion and if the *Shebaits* cannot agree between themselves and put down malpractices, the Hindu community will have to stir in the matter. The *Shebaits* have been warned before this but they seem to think that they can defy public opinion and trample down public convenience with impunity. In this they are mistaken, as they will find to their cost ere long if they do not improve. The matter which was being investigated into in the Alipur Courts, has, we are told, been since amicably settled.

LAST year's statistics shows that the number of persons killed by wild beasts is steadily on the increase. In the Central Provinces special measures had to be organised for stopping depradations by wolves but not with much success. We have repeatedly pointed out and we have once more to urge that matters will grow worse and worse every year unless the existing rigidities of the Arms Act be appreciately relaxed.

A NEW departure has been made by the Royal Bengal Theatre which will be very acceptable to the play-going public. The life, doings and sayings of the sage and poet *Ramprasad* whose religious songs will live so long as Bengal and the Bengalis exist, have been utilized for dramatic purposes with much cleverness and the episodes of his pious life have been introduced in the play with much effect. The songs, in theatrical parlance, are "pretty and plenty" and some of them are something decidedly better than "pretty," for a religious fervour pervades them that irresistibly appeals even to stubborn scepticism. Without being strictly mythological *Ramprasad* may claim to be a religious drama of great merit and we are glad to congratulate the Company on its success. The new after-piece, *Bar-bahar*, is another hit on the legal profession, with whom all our theatrical companies seem to have special quarrel which is perhaps the result of undue familiarity.

AN important meeting of the Sobhabazar Benevolent Society was held at the Society premises on Saturday last. Mr. A. Smith presided and distinguished speakers like Justice Gurudas Banerjee, Babus Pratap Chunder Mazumdar, Kalinath Mitter, Mr. N. Ghosh and Babus Narendranath Sen, Kalichurn Banerjee and Surendranath Banerjee addressed the meeting. There was a large and influential gathering and resolutions were unanimously adopted recording the deep regret of the Society at the untimely death of Maharaj Kumar Neel Krishna, and for taking steps for perpetuating his memory. The Maharaj Kumar was one of the most earnest and liberal promoters of the Society. Mr. Smith in opening the proceedings, said :—

The gathering had assembled to discharge a melancholy duty—to place on record the regret which they all felt at the loss of one whom to know was to respect and regard, and one who by a blameless life and generous deeds had left a splendid example to his countrymen. It was intended originally that the meeting should have been confined to members of the Sovabazar Benevolent Society with which the deceased was intimately connected from its foundation, but those in no way connected with that society had attended in such strong force from all parts of Bengal that the meeting had grown into one representative of Calcutta and the whole province—a pleasing indication of the wide respect in which the late Maharaj Kumar Neel Krishna was held. He could speak from personal experience of the noble endeavours for his people and the fine ambition of the deceased, and the object of the meeting had his hearty sympathy. If ever a man deserved enshrinement in the memory of his countrymen the Maharaj Kumar did, and the least that the meeting could do was to place on record its deep sense of its sorrow and regret at the untimely death of one whose short though honorable career gave promise of a foremost place among those who have done good for their country.

Similar resolutions have been adopted by the Kumbuliatolla Library, the Indian Association and other institutions with which the Maharaj Kumar was connected.

WE have for sometime past been receiving numerous complaints against Mr. Manisty, the Magistrate of Baharampur, to which we did not think proper to give publicity. But his conduct has been growing more erratic than ever and as the fates would have it, he simply became outrageous on the eve of the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to the place in the sure hope, we take it, of drawing attention and getting himself transferred to a better station. His latest freak took the shape of convicting two respectable merchants of the place, to 15 days' imprisonment for keeping old useless and rusty pistols without a license. But the strangest part of the proceedings was that he refused to take bail even after the District Judge had ordered it on motion. The Judge's orders were disregarded and the convicts were marched off to jail in irons. The gentlemen concerned have presented a memorial to Sir Charles Elliott from which we make the following extract :—

The usual release-warrants being signed by the Sessions Judge and sealed with the seal of the Court were sent to the District Magistrate for compliance at 4-30 P.M. of the 17th Instant.

That the District Magistrate, Mr. G. E. Manisty, received at 4-45 P.M. the warrants for the release of your memorialists, but he declined to comply with them and in spite of the distinct order of the Sessions Judge and notwithstanding that sureties were ready with their bail-bonds, your memorialists who had up to that moment been located in the Court Hajut room, were, under orders of the said Magistrate, sent hand-cuffed to the Berhampore Jail.

That on the 18th Instant at 8 A. M. your memorialists through their Vakeel brought the above circumstances to the notice of the Sessions Judge who sent fresh release-warrants to the District Magistrate, who received them at 9 A. M. of the same day; but your memorialists were released from Jail at 4 P. M.

That, under the above circumstances, your memorialists were detained in prison under the orders of Mr. G. E. Manisty, the District Magistrate from 4-45 P. M. of the 17th to 4 P. M. of the 18th instant, and this detention has not only been highly illegal, improper and unjustifiable but extremely humiliating and distressing to your memorialists.

That the said Magistrate, having on the 17th instant disobeyed the order of the Sessions Judge by refusing to set your memorialists at large on bail and having sent them to Jail hand-cuffed, has rendered himself liable to actions for illegal and wrongful confinement, detention, violence and insult, and your memorialists pray for sanction to take legal proceedings against Mr. G. E. Manisty, the District Magistrate.

That your memorialists further humbly pray that your Honor will be pleased to take up this matter departmentally and as the whole Town is labouring under a sense of

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DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL—PRE-EMINENTLY THE COD LIVER OIL FOR USE IN INDIA, AND IN WARM CLIMATES.—Joseph J. Pope, Esq., late Staff-Surgeon, Army, Professor of Hygiene, Birkbeck Institution, London, writes:—"I found during my Indian experience that the worth and character of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil remained unchanged by tropical heat or foreign climate, and it was, from its uniformity of character, particularly adapted for long-continued administration. Further, I have noticed the important fact, that Dr. de Jongh's Cod Liver Oil, besides containing all the active constituents of the remedy, is easily assimilated, without the stomach derangement so frequently following the use of the ordinary Oils. The value of 'hydro-carbons in all debilitated states of the system is now becoming thoroughly recognised; and it is, without doubt, from the animal oils and fats, rather than from their vegetable subtitutes, that we may hope to derive the surest benefit. The Oil of Dr. de Jongh places in every one's reach a reliable and valuable remedy, one that cannot be too widely recognised.' Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts with his stamp and signature and the signatureof his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees Ansar, Harford and Co. 210 High Holborn London.

painful terror at the sight of the authority of the highest judiciary in the District set at naught at the mere will and pleasure of an inferior criminal court, your Honor will, by taking prompt and effective measures, allay the fears and apprehensions of the public and maintain the dignity of law.

If the facts are anything like those averred the prayers will have to be complied with and the High Court also will take serious notice of this grave breach of discipline.

CHOLERA is increasing at Mecca, and has also appeared at Moona (*sic*). Five hundred and twenty deaths occurred at Mecca on Saturday and Sunday before last, the victims being chiefly Turks. A guarded quarantine camp is being formed at El Tor, and other precautionary measures are being taken by the local Government to prevent cholera from reaching Egypt.

THE Government of India is said to have signified its intention of erecting a memorial at the public expense at Manipur, to mark the spot in the Residency compound where the remains of the officers who lost their lives during the revolt now rest, and also to put up a tablet in the Cathedral of Calcutta to their memory.

THE next Criminal Sessions of the Calcutta High Court will commence on Wednesday, the 19th August. The last sessions came to a close on Saturday last with the Bramho murder case in which there was a conviction by the unanimous verdict of the special jury. The prisoner Ambica Churn Bose, has been sentenced to death.

Correspondence

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

London, June 24, 1891.

OPIUM SMOKING SCIENCE.

Sir John Gorst has promised Mr. Samuel Smith to call the attention of the Government of India to the efforts which have been made in the Punjab for dealing with the shops in which Chundoo opium is smoked, and order that the authorities in other parts of India may adopt similar measures.

According to a passage in the statement of the moral and material progress and condition of India, the principal change in the Punjab excise system was the enactment of new opium rules under which the acreage fee was raised from half a rupee to two rupees per acre in order to check the production of small quantities of unexcised opium for home consumption.

Sir John Gorst also said that the local Government had reduced the opium-smoking licenses, and was considering further reductions.

THE FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS BILL.

The Government has suffered a defeat upon their Bill which was very justly deserved in view of the moral engagements by which it was bound on the one hand to the representatives of European countries, who met at Berlin last year to consider the labour laws, and on the other to India, upon which it had brought pressure to bear to secure the passing of the recent Factory Act.

The Government had declined to advance the age at which children might be employed in factories and workshops, and had given way to the representatives of those very manufacturers who, a short time ago, were so full of righteous indignation against the employment of young children in India. This was so in such flagrant contradiction to the attitude assumed by the Berlin representatives that it might reasonably be expected the House of Commons would not sanction it. The result has accordingly been the passing of Mr. Buxton's clause that after the 1st January 1893 no child under the age of 11 years shall be employed in a factory or workshops, by a vote of 202 to 186. Yet this does not completely carry out the understanding which Sir John Gorst, one of the delegates to the conference, made clear to the House had been entered into by England at Berlin that the minimum age should be fixed at 12 years. But Mr. Buxton has other clauses upon the notice paper providing that after July 1st 1894 no child under the age of 12 shall be employed in a factory or workshop, and that after 1st July 1892 no child under the age of 14 shall be employed in a factory or workshop other than under the half-time system.

This legislation is necessary in order to put England, in this matter at least, in line with other countries of Europe which are on every hand raising the age for the employment of children in factories. Unless this is done then, as Mr. Buxton said, "perfidious Albion," as the French have delighted for ages to call us, will be "perfidious Albion" still for after recommending other nations to take certain steps she will not have taken those steps herself.

Referring to India Mr. Buxton said the argument had always been used that the competition of Indian operatives and Indian children must be taken into account and the age having been raised in India by two years a similar change ought to be made here.

It is indeed very satisfactory to see how neatly the tables have been turned upon the manufacturers who exploited the Berlin conference, when it suited them to press forward a class of legislation for India which they hoped to evade themselves. They now sought in this case to minimise the proceedings of the Conference, before they had flaunted them before the eyes of Lord Cross.

In consequence of their action Lord Cross had, as Mr. Mundella pointed out, put enormous pressure on the Government of India to raise the age of factory children on account of the importance he attached to the principles of the Berlin Conference. He telegraphed to the Viceroy that this and that must be done because it was required by our adhesion to the Berlin Conferenee. "In the matter of Factory Acts" said Lord Cross, "there should not be one law for India and another for England," and he added, "The resolutions of the Berlin Conference have great weight with her Majesty's Government." The Viceroy replied that on account of the Berlin Conference and the importance Her Majesty's Government attached to it, the Government of India had adopted more liberal measures than hitherto.

With this "damned iteration" of "the Berlin Conference" ringing in their ears the manufacturers had a bad time the other night. They found they had raised the devil and had no spell potent enough to send him back. That the Governmenf should have supported them is bad enough, but we may be thankful that we are not in the end exposed to the derision which would have fallen upon us had the result been different. In the words of the *Times*, "if after solemnly encouraging all States to 'bring themselves into line' we, who allowed our humanity to be paraded as an exemplar for the world, declined to do as others have done, or are doing, we should justly be held up to odium as a nation of Pharisees."

A CURIOUS STATE OF THINGS IN LONDON.

Next to the Baccarat case the great strike of the omnibus drivers, conductors, and other men engaged in the passenger traffic carried on by the omnibus companies, has attracted public attention. No one who knows London will wonder at this considering what an important part the omnibus plays in the every day life of, one might well say, millions of Londoners. There are quite 12,000 buses and the withdrawal of these from the Streets has given then an appearance of bareness, and an air of quiet, to which we are little accustomed. The amount of inconvenience inflicted is more readily felt than described and yet the sympathies of the public are decidedly with the servants of the great bus owning Companies. Contributions are being sent to them in large amounts and money boxes are placed at the doors of churches and public buildings. The history of this strike is curious For long it has been known that the hours of work of the men were preposterously long usually fifteen, sixteen or seventeen per day and every day of the week. One thing seems to have mitigated this hardship and that has a peculiar tacit understanding that the men should take advantage of the absence of any check upon the amount of their takings except so far as a certain average daily was expected to be returned. In other words a system of embezzlement was winked at and a more rotten and demoralizing one can hardly be conceived. A short time ago, however, the directors determined to introduce the ticket system and a certain amount of advanced wages was offered; on the whole an amount equal to £50,000 per annum. No reduction was made upon the working hours however. In these circumstances the men have had recourse to the great modern weapon of a strike. They ask for a twelve hours working day and wages which if not excessive are certainly very good. It is on the question of hours that they have public sympathy. Bad enough though working sixteen hours a day must be, even when every additional hour puts something extra into a man's pocket, it is utterly cruel when the reward is a fixed sum which cannot be called extravagant. At present there seems every prospect of the men winning. They are splendidly organized and there has been no difficulty about admitting their representatives to conference with the Directors although they are not employed. This growing recognition of educated men as spokesmen and of workmen's demands is a very significant fact and immensely increases the co-herence of the more ignorant classes of work people.

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Government Notification

Calcutta Gazette—*July 26*, 1891.

GENERAL.—Mr. Baroda Churn Mitra, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tangail, Mymensingh, is allowed leave for ten days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension, of the leave granted to him under the order of the 22nd April 1891.

Babu Raj Mohun Chuckerbutty, Deputy Collector, Madaripur, Faridpur, is appointed to have charge of the Jungipur sub-division of the Murshidabad district.

This cancels the order of the 7th instant, appointing Babu Nagendro Nath Pal Chowdhry, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Culna, Burdwan, to have charge of the Jungipur sub-division of the Murshidabad district.

Babu Radhakant Banerjea, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Darjiling, is transferred to the headquarters station of the Hughli district.

This cancels the order of the 7th instant, appointing him to have charge of the Culna sub-division of the Burdwan district.

Babu Gossain Das Datta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagepur, is allowed have for sixteen days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 21st April last.

Mr. H. J. McIntosh, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Sewan, Sarun, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, with effect from the afternoon of the 3rd instant, the date on which he was relieved of his appointment as Officiating Msgistrate and Collector of Mozufferpur.

Mr. McIntosh is transferred temporarily to the headquarters of the Mozufferpur district, with effect from the forenoon of the 13th instant.

Mr. N. Bonham-Carter, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Gopalganj, Sarun, is appointed to have charge of the Sewan sub-division of that district, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. H. J. McIntosh, or until further orders, with effect from the forenoon of the 11th instant.

Mr. W. H. Thomson, Deputy Magistrare end Deputy Collector, Burdwan, is appointed to have charge of the Gopalganj sub-division of the Sarun district, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. N. Bonham-Carter, or until further orders.

Babu Shama Podo Chowdry, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chumparun, is transferred to the headquarters of the Burdwan ditrict.

Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, Magistrate and Collector, Sarun, is allowed leave for two months and twenty-two days, under article 291 of the Civil Sarvice Regulations, with effect from the 28th instant.

Mr. H. J. McIntosh, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mozufferpur, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector, Sarun, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, or until further orders.

Mr. C. A. S. Bedford, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, is allowed leave for two months and twenty-eight days, under article 291 of Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 11th August 1891.

Mr. Ahsanuddin Ahmad, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Manbhum, is appointed to act as Deputy Commissioner of that district, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. C. A. S. Bedford or until further orders.

Mr. C. A. W. Fordyce, Officiating Deputy Magistrated and Deputy Collector, Tipperah, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Art X of 1870 in that district.

Mr. H. C. Streatfeild, Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Financial and Municipal Departments, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Mr J Windsor, Officiattng Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is appointed to act as Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Financial and Municipal Departments, during the absence, on leave, of Mr H C Streatfeild, or until further orders.

Maulvi Imdad Ali, Sub Deputy Collector, Noakhali, is allowed leave for two months and twenty days under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

POLICE—Mr A B Barnard, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, is allowed leave for two months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 8th August 1891.

Mr E C Ryland, Officiating Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Police, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties; as Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, during the absence, on leave, of Mr A B Barnard, or until further orders.

Mr J Masters, District Superintendent of Police, Dacca, is allowed leave for two months and twenty-seven days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 15th proximo.

REGISTRATION—Maulvi Syed Abdur Raub, Special Sub-Registrar, Mymensingh, is allowed leave for six months, under article 370 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Krishna Chunder Sirkar, Rural Sub-Registrar, Tangail, Mymensingh, is appointed to act as Special Sub-Registrar of that district, during the absence, on leave, of Maulvi Syed Abdul Raub, or until further orders.

Babu Kamala Kumad Mookerjee, Rural Sub-Registrar of Maimari, in the district of Burdwan, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Mantessar in the same district.

JUDICIAL.—Babu Bepin Behary Dey, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsf in the distrct of Pubna and Bogra, to be ordinarily stationed at Bogra, during the absence, on leave of Babu Mohim Chunder Sirkar, or untill further orders.

Babu Autul Chunder Ghose, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Bakerganj, to be ordinaarily stationed at Perozepur, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Durga Churn Sen, or until further orders.

Babu Upendra Chunder Mullick, Subordinate Judge, Chittagong, is allowed leave for one month and a half, under article 306(*b*) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 1st August 1891, or from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Madhub Chuder Chuckerbutty, Subordinate Judge of Chittagong, on leave, is vested temporarily with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 100 within the local limits of the Chittagong Munsifi, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Upendra Chunder Mullick.

Babu Tara Churn Sen, Munsif of Patuakhali, in the district of Backerganj, is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Bankura, to be ordinarily stationed at the Sadr station, vice Babu Russick Chunder Roy, deceased.

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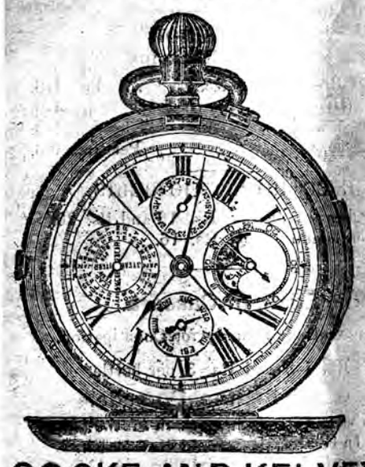

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Extracts.

THE BRITISH IN INDIA.

(*Age*)

The traveller who anticipates that there are any outward and visible signs answering to the qualifying adjective "British," usually prefixed to the name of India, is awfully mistaken. There is nothing British in the aspect of the place or its people; everything is Indian. The few white faces he sees now and then might be those of tourists like himself, and probably are. The cities, except in parts of a few capitals, the houses and streets, the residents, their garb, conveyances, habits and language, the vegetation, the animal life, all are foreign to the English eye. The traveller has perhaps just left a P. & O. steamer manned by lascars to find himself in a country in which his countrymen are far fewer in proportion to those they command than the white officers were on board ship. There are more Europeans in Egypt than in India, and as much evidence at present of British rule; that is to say, there are red-coated troops in its citadels, and English engineers upon its canals.

Those who wish to find the Saxon element in India must search for t. They will find it almost wholly beneath the surface. The population is as mixed in its constitution as the great image seen by the prophet Daniel in his vision, and the British is one of the least of its elements. Our language is twenty-fourth on the list of spoken tongues. To say that the native races preponderate is not too sufficiently to express their superiority in numbers, and the supremacy of their manner of life. India is Asiatic to the core, and all that is seen of her is Asiatic also. The British rule to a large extent by means of natives and native organizations, or in the name and under cover of native authorities and by native methods. Almost all India is still in courtesy treated as composed of Independent States under native princes; but the evidences of English power are no more prominent in the Presidencies than in Hyderabad or Rajputana. The reign of law in the physical world is no more indicated to the casual glance of the unreflective than is the British reign over India. Its white government is withdrawn for haif the year into the distances of Olympian hills, and fulminates its decrees invisibly from among the clouds. In the cooler weather it apparently reveals itself only for purposes of pageantry.

As a matter of fact, the whole country is held in grip by a large army, which occupies all its strongholds and points of vantage, but is nowhere obtrusive of its presence. Order prevails in every province, and there is perfect safety for the unarmed through all the length and breadth of the land. The one manifestation of British authority is the maintenance of just laws and the firm suppression of all pillage and brigandage, except upon the part or guides, servants, and hotel-keepers. These may be regarded as licensed practitioners of the art on a peaceful footing, cherishing and inheriting the traditions of Timour, Nadir Shah and a succession of splendid robbers whose practices are honoured daily by a most flattering fidelity of imitation. This assists in maintaining the local colour, which indeed is nowhere even modified by the white *regime*. India is Indian in every aspect and European in no aspect. It has no tincture of Western morals or manners outside the suburbs of one or two sea-ports and cities of official importance. It lives as only the East lives, glows as only the East glows, especially smells as only the East smells and remains to-day just as it was when first entered by Alexander; neither a civilised nor an Europeanised country, but "the cradle of the world and garden of the sun."

The conquest of this empire has been not inappropriately described as a mircle. Its retention is quite as marvellous. Both have been accomplished by means which seem so inadequate as to suggest some such supernatural guidance as the Hindus are always inclined to infer. The whites of India, all told, are as 1 to 1,700 of what may be termed the indigenous races. Deduct the soldiery—who are massed in certain garrison and make little show outside their barracks—and there are 3,000 dark skinned residents for every Anglo Saxon. Even this figure does not convey the small degree to which Briton can be detected over the immense territory under their command. They are most of them concentrated in a few centres, and consequently there are large tracts of India in which one may pass days among prosperous towns and innumerable busy villages without meeting a compatriot. Even on the railways you may travel hundreds of miles without seeing a European, and the country for days without hearing the English tongue. Enter a bank, a post office, a Government department or a great factory, and you find but one or two whites, if any, surrounded by hundreds of Hindus. There are virtually no artisans or shopkeepers' employes but natives. Where an Englishman is employed it is as foreman or superintendent, and the number of these tend to diminish. On some railways native engine-drivers are already being introduced; there are native magistrates, barristers, clergymen, contractors, bankers and doctors everywhere; there are many more Asiatic soldiers in the British army than there are Britons and the same people constitute the great majority in the local bodies. In the whole of India there are less than a thousand Europeans in trade, less than a thousand engaged in planting, less than a thousand professional men. There are many districts, 1,200 or 1,500 square miles in extent, which contain but two or three Caucasians, and some of these are only present periodically during the year. It is no wonder, then, that such a pitiful minority should be almost lost to sight altogether among the score of millions of alien races among whom they reside.

The residence of Englishman in India is always intermittent and always for a period only. All who can afford it spend their summer among the hills; almost all leave the country on long furlough every few years, none makes their homes here, none settles, none marries with the women of the country. Every year comes a fresh influx of the young, hopeful and healthy, and every year an equal number depart to end their days under a less withering sky. This climate conquers even the national customs of the Saxon, alters his food, his dress, his house, his ideas. He either forswears many meats and drinks of the mother country, or pays heavy penalties until he does; protects himself with pith helmets and umbrellas, or is struck down in the heat; and dwells not in marble halls, but in plastered rooms of great height without hangings, with little furniture and less decoration, in which every old-world comfort is ruthlessly sacrificed, or replaced by others of an entirely foreign cast. He changes his hours of rising and sleeping, of eating and of exercise, his self-helpfulness and his social relations; he is probably separated from his infant children, and often from his wife for years.

The sacrifice made in order to live in India is perhaps repaid in many individual cases by the achievement of brilliant successes which would have been impossible elsewhere. The pale, wasted woman of the south may have lightened the burden of her husbands even at the sacrifice of health and motherly joys. The tide of youth, ability, and courage, poured out every year upon these burning sands too often to sink out of sight among them, has already reared many superb memorials to the masterfulness and might of the race. Yet life in India is exile and is only endured at best. It is but natural that at times Anglo-Indians should look back upon their choice with bitterness, echoing the cry of ther poet:—

> what lured him to life in the tropic;
> Did he venture for fame or for pelf
> Did he seek a career philanthropic;
> Or simply to be ter himself;
> But whate'er the temptation that brought him
> whether piety, dulness, or debts,
> He is here for a p ice, thou hast bought him,
> O Land of Regrets.

The price of success in India is paid not simply in life but in opinion. Perhaps the greater of all the transformations that may be noted in the Briton who becomes an Anglo-Indian is the change in his political ideas and principles. The disciple of Bastiat maintains import duties with a protective incidence until Manchester interests prove too strong, and still retains export duties on food products. The student of Herbert Spencer becomes an advocate of State Railways and irrigation canals, regards proposals for factory laws with favour, and exhibits no repugnance to the creation of profitable monopolies. The supporter of Mr. Gladstone refuses the suffrage, not only to all natives but to his own countrymen, and openly deprecates representative institutions. The cardinal doctrine of the *laises faire* school, that legislation is to be determined according to one set of dogmas in all times and under all conceivable circumstances, is thus infringed in every direction. Those who attack Irish land laws in the west, when they come to the east defend with zeal the traditions which make the State the sole landlord. In short the Government in India does daily and cheerfully all that it is forbidden to do in England, and does avowedly in the interest of native races just what the parent Government is prevented from doing in the interest of white labour.

The actual administration seems much better than its constitution would lead the critic to expect. The exercise of favoritism is said to be on the whole decreasing, and then conspicuous capacity receives its meed by this means. The Service, whatever its faults, is unquestionably able and incorruptible answering with unswerving loyalty to the demands of its chiefs. The Central Government, in particular, and the Presidencies scarcely less are actuated with excellent motives. The balance between native and white is not only held level, but there is an open leaning to the coloured side on many issues. There has been a very high-handed and contestable treatment of independent States in past times, but for a *long time now* an anxious and even painful solicitude to do them justice has been manifested at head-quarters. The welfare of the subject races has been the aim in recent years of much careful legislation, of enormous expenditure, and of indefatigable activity on the part of the autocratic rulers, and of those who execute their behests. Canal engineers complain that they are not supported when treating for land with villagers, or in their efforts to protect their works from trespassers, and that unfair royalties are levied upon them for the benefit of Native States. So tender the solicitude of those at the head of affairs for ryot and raja that the irrigation enterpise is weighed with payments and privileges rather than there should be any doubt of the justice of the Government. The aim of the State is to do for the Hindoo what he will not or cannot do for himself, and its *regime* is therefore, in every sense of the term paternal. It even spares the rod to such an extent as to run the risk of spoiling its step-child. The net result is a benevolent tyranny leaning a little towards unnecessary officiousness. The tyrant has not been content to offer what he believed to be advantages, but somtimes has gone so far as to thurst them upon his subjects.. This however, was rare, and is becoming rarer. The Government is now convinced that India can never be British in its conditions, and will never be British except in rule and principle. It has to be accepted as Asiatic and governed on Asiatic lines. We found a despotism and we preserve it, striving not to alter or weaken it, but to make it sympathetic and just.

SOME SOCIAL ASPECTS OF AMERICAN LIFE.

The construction of most houses in the great cities—New York like the rest—shows the difference that exists between the American idea of comfort and ours. The love of privacy, so prominent a feature in the English character, is unknown: the privilege of exclusion, so rigidly enforced in the walls and fences of our gardens, the closed doors of our withdrawing rooms on the first floor, is rarely enforced here. The house being heated throughout with hot air, all parts of it are equally warm. The "parlour" on the ground-floor is only separated from the passage by a curtain. Another curtain—probably not even drawn—divides it from the central hall, up which the staircase winds. And opposite this a curtained archway leads into the dining-room. When people have confidences to communicate in an American house they must be reduced to whispering or must retire to their bedrooms This is the a most universal plan of the moderate-sized dwellings in New York—a plan necessitated by the narrow frontage afforded to each. The door is approached by a precipitate flight of steps—a "stoop," as it is called—and it has the inconvenience of rarely having its number boldly painted on its face; it is generally ingeniously hidden, and very often is only visible to the naked eye woven into the door mat. When you add to this that the names or numbers of the streets are never affixed to the walls, only occasionally upon the lamps—and even then are often half rubbed off—the trouble and loss of time involved in paying a visit in a strange city can be understood.

The decoration and furniture of the "parlours" and the way they are lived in, are further illustrations of the difference between the two nations in these respects. Where there is wealth there is often sumptuousness—splendid tapestries, embroideries, and stuffs; priceless carpets, and cabinets, and curios; while the walls of many houses are adorned with modern French pictures, which owing to the systematic exclusion of light, it ts quite impossible to see. In many houses where I was taken expressly to inspect the pictures at leisure the upper shutters remained closed, and in some of the interior rooms the gas had to be lit in order to discover that there were any pictures at all. These facts and the exasperating similarity between all the private collections throughout the States lead me to doubt whether there is much real, honest, individual love of the works collected. I knew before I entered each house exactly what I should find: a certain number of Corots—so called at least, for I trust that the master would have disowned half those spongy secretions of soapsuds—Daubignys, Troyons, a Diaz or two, and occasionally a Millet: all admirable painters, whom any lover of the art is glad to greet, if the examples of their talent be worthy of them. Still one has an impatient wish to enlarge the circle occasionally, and not to feel that the mind and taste of the collector were as nothing in the stereotyped list of pictures it was becoming he should purchase.

But it was not to this curious uniformity in selection, where a dozen Englishmen would have asserted wilfully their individual tastes, that my observation was chiefly directed. Everyone is not rich enough to buy pictures or furniture. But comfort, as we understand .t, is independent of wealth; and in this respect the "parlours" of most American houses struck me as very deficient. I should even say they

do not aim at being comfortable. Apparently the idea, built upon the old French *salon* of state, is that a room for reception is not one for occupation of any kind but that of conversation. One volume bound in morocco with gilt edges is the utmost concession to literature that the table admits. A photograph or two—if the owner aims at being artistic these are drapped in rags; if not, they are probably framed in brass or silver—a vase (pronounced, almost universally, as though it rhymed with *gaze*) full of flowers, and a few pieces of china or pottery are the only objects the eye lights on besides the necessary chairs, sofas, and settees. All the pleasant litter of employment—the books, the work (for I suppose some ladies do secretly work), the writting table, so full of pretty associations in our English women's drawing-rooms, these are relegated to some upper chamber where the visitor is not allowed to penetrate. It is a truism with us that a room expresses, to a great extent, the character of the owner. Here, with few exceptions, the rooms have no character at all. It is impossible to say what a lady cares chiefly for—what she does, how she lives—from an inspection of her "parlour." A correct sameness reigns alike in the abode of the brilliant woman of fashion, the student of Browning and Carlyle, the devotee of Wagner, or the uninspired lover of domesticity.

I have alluded to the general absence of walls or fences, not only to separate one villa from another, but to protect all from public intrusion. It is rare that there is any division between private property and the road along which the tram-car passes. This is enough to account for the fact that gardens, except on large properties, are rarely seen. The English cottage, with its strip of ground, cram full of colour, its paling and wicket gate, is unknown in the Eastern States. In California the waysides are bordered with geranium, cactus, or pampas grass, woven into an impenetrable hedge, behind which you see that in every available inch of ground arums are thrusting up their white cornucopias; eschscholizias fling down their gold before the door while roses enlace their white and crimson arms above it. True nature asks little here from the hand of man, while in the east she requires to be fed and carefully tended. When I remarked how little floriculture seemed to interest the dwellers in New England I was always met by the same reply: "Labour is so dear." "But," I objected, 'with us the city clerk, returning to his suburban home at the end of a hard day, the railway porter, nay, even the labourer, who has been delaying for eight or nine hours, will turn to with his spade at the bit of garden he has made round his cottage; and somehow the flowers seem to bloom there more abundantly than in the rich man's demesne hard by." The fact is, the true love of flowers, the patient, careful love—not the cupidity for cut roses at two dollars apiece—does not seem to be inherent in the national character. In Miss Wilkin's charming tales of the New England middle class you see, by the way the flowers are occasionally mentioned, that they are an accident, not a daily interest in village life. In the cities men are prodigal of bouquets to the ladies they desire to honour, and a favourite belle is "bunched" to an embarrassing degree if she desires to appear impartial on the occasion of a great ball. But this is far away from the healthy pleasure that, in England, country folk of all ranks take in the rearing of flowers.

The theatre, as a rule was a disappointment to me throughout the States. I saw but few indigenous plays that would bear transplantation; and with the exception of some character parts, which were well filled, the cast was generally inferior to what it would be at a second-rate theatre in England. This is the more remarkable as the Americans are good critics, and occasionally severe ones. They possess in Mr. Daly's one of the best comedy companies in the world and their stage has a long tradition of excellent actors some of whom are still playing. But, critics apart, the nation's taste in theatrical matters has become vitiated. Comic operas, in which the songs are without rhyme and the plot without reason, variety shows of a depth of inanity unparalleled in Europe, as far as I know, are the pieces which draw crowded houses night after night in all the great cities. Happily Booth, Jefferson, Irving, or the Kendals come now and against to give them a taste of better things. But this is not their daily food, nor would the majority of the audience desire that it should be. They go to see there "bright particular stars', and to discuss them afterward. The mental strain of following Shakespeare, Sheridan, or even Sardou would be too great for a continuance. They want something which requires no thought and provokes no discussion. If it has a certain amount of vigorous horse-play, a few comic songs and breakdowns, and a "funny man", they are satisfied, and the thread on which all these are strung is of small importance. These things being so, it is no wonder that neither good plays nor good actors are very frequently to be found at this moment in America.

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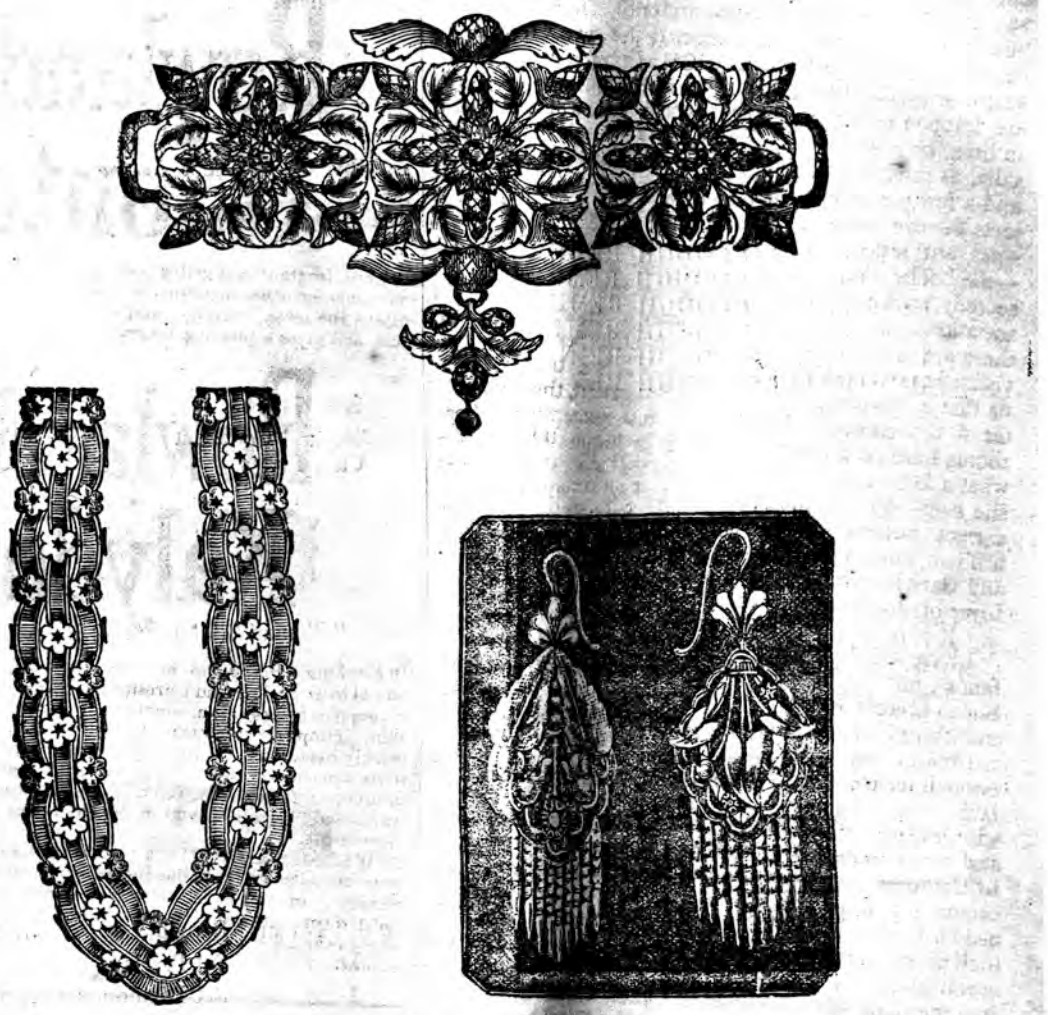

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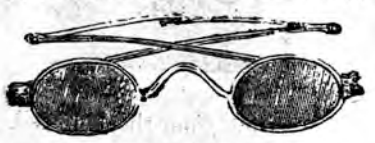

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